

## HALO Working Group Meeting

### Meeting Summary

Meeting Chair: Alex Reis			
<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Note Taker</u>	<u>Next Meeting Date</u>
June 16, 2025, 1:00pm – 2:30pm ET	Virtual	Sadrina Petit, Project Analyst, Digital Health Interoperability	June 23, 2025, 1:00pm-2:30pm ET
<b>Meeting Agenda:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Co-Chair</li> <li>2. App Catalog context – how we got here</li> <li>3. App Catalog deep dive – In Simplifier</li> <li>4. Q&amp;A / Collaboration</li> </ol>			
Presenters			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alex Reis   Director, Digital Health Interoperability, Canada Health Infoway</li> <li>• Silas Ng   Product Director, Interoperability Solutions, Canada Health Infoway</li> <li>• Colin Kent-Shepherd   Software Architect, Hamilton Health Sciences</li> </ul>			
Invited Guests			
Public			

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

A. Reis welcomed all participants to the working group meeting and introduced Colin Kent-Shepherd. Meeting materials and recording of the session will be made available on the InfoCentral working group.

### 2. Content Presentation

The Infoway team presented each of the agenda items as outlined above. The meeting covered the structure and functionality of the App Catalog, which uses a custom JSON format to support simple and flexible data exchange. Key elements include ID, name, description, tags, URLs, and launch URL. The catalog supports multiple app versions, each requiring conformance testing. The group discussed the need for standardized APIs and potential alignment with FHIR. Future meetings will explore the app launch process and Pub/Sub capabilities.

The presentation deck is available [HALO Working Group Meeting](#)

The video recording is available [HALO Working Group Meeting](#)

### **Questions raised during the working group meeting:**

#### **Was the FTC3 catalog specification considered?**

Not initially, but the suggestion will be reviewed.

#### **Could the API follow the FHIR specification (e.g., CRUD/search)?**

Strong agreement that a RESTful FHIR-like API approach could simplify integration and searching (e.g., search by scopes). Feedback has been recorded and will be considered for a future release.

#### **Why choose custom JSON instead of FHIR?**

FHIR didn't have a suitable predefined resource. A custom JSON approach was simpler, offered flexibility, and is seen as transitional. Future FHIR compatibility is possible (e.g., R6 custom resources or logical models).

#### **How is app versioning handled?**

Each app version is a separate catalog entry. Jurisdictions manage deployments and deprecation independently.

#### **What is the certification process for app catalog inclusion?**

Certification, in this context, means the process for a jurisdiction to review an app and allow it to be added to the App Catalog. In addition to business rules the PT may have, conformance testing or validation should also be considered.

- Conformance testing may include Conformance testing by Canada Health Infoway (CHI).
- Additional jurisdiction-specific certification steps.

#### **Can developers update apps after certification?**

Minor updates (e.g., labels) might be simpler, while significant updates typically require re-certification. Certification is done by the PT and not covered in the HALO Specification.

#### **Is app authenticity verified in the catalog?**

Provenance/authenticity is managed through jurisdictional approval and conformance testing. Additional digital signature or detailed provenance tracking could be future considerations.

#### **Does the smart app need to differentiate between a FHIR standard server and SMART on FHIR Accelerator (SoFA)?**

No. The way the SMART App accesses the backend is agnostic of the implementation (either the EMR FHIR Server or SoFA)