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HL7 FHIR eReferral Workstream



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FHIR eReferral Workstream Overview

The FHIR eReferral workstream kicked off in 2016 with the goal of developing a flexible, standards-based implementation guide for eReferral workflow and communication. The founding co-chairs – Tim Berezny (Caredove) and Caryn Harris (Orion Health) – and workstream members represent many eReferral vendors and jurisdictional stakeholders. The workgroup recognizes that seamless eReferrals between care providers – regardless of their eReferral platform - will improve patient care, experience and outcomes, while removing the administrative burden from providers.

Our scope is from the time a provider is selected for a referral through the closing of the referral by the referral recipient. This includes initial acceptance, request for further information, scheduling of the appointment and sending updates before or after care is provided by the referral recipient. Communication with patients (e.g. reminders, changes to appointments) are also in scope. Future scope may include contacting a service directory for resource matching, deeper integration with the patient's digital health record (e.g. to provide richer information with the referral) and consent management. For more details, please see the [eReferral design canvas](#).

Our goal has been to profile FHIR resources in a manner that will accelerate the work of a specific referral pathway, but is still broad enough to be used for future pathways within multiple care sectors across Canada. We have been fortunate to have an Ontario business sponsor provide use cases and specific pathways to drive our profiling of relevant FHIR resources. The current version of the [eReferral implementation guide](#) has been built around referrals to home and community care service providers in Ontario. As additional use cases/pathways are incorporated into this implementation guide, our vision is that all Canadian jurisdictions will leverage it in support of developing their eReferral ecosystems.

The breadth of stakeholder representation provides multiple perspectives to the FHIR resource profiling that is the core of the implementation guide. The analysis, discussions and recommendations are conducted via the biweekly workstream web conference calls and this collaboration site. There are occasional out-of-cycle workshops when a project requires decisions made with a set timeframe.

We welcome you to the eReferral FHIR workstream and look forward to collaborating with you! You can 'Ping' Yaron Derman (use the feature on the top toolbar) if you would like a quick guided introduction to the workstream.

