

Information Standards Notice – New

Acting under delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB) has approved a new information standard for publication under section 250 of the Health and Social Act 2012.

You must comply with this new standard by the full conformance date specified below.

Standard details	
DAPB unique identifier	DAPB4020 Amd 33/2021
Name	UK Core Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Release 4 (R4) Governance, Initial Standard
Approval date	2 March 2022
Publication date	11 March 2022
Standard definition	
Description	<p>This new information standard formally introduces the governance process for the oversight, direction and leadership of the UK Core Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Release 4. The standard mandates, within the health and care sector in England, a consistent approach to the development of UK Core resources, thereby facilitating clear interoperability in the sharing of data across the NHS, health services and adult social care in England.</p> <p>Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) is an international standard for the exchange of healthcare data across health and care IT systems. It is published by Health Level Seven International (HL7®) and comprises a series of resources which can be used in various combinations across multiple settings. These resources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profiles • Value Sets • Code Systems • Concept Maps • Operation Definitions • Extensions. <p>Within the United Kingdom, it has been agreed that FHIR should be used across the home countries as the foundation of sharing data across health and care organisations. However, alignment of FHIR with UK healthcare requirements is needed and a UK Core FHIR Board has been established to oversee and assure this alignment and take responsibility for the promotion of the resulting resources, brought together as the UK Core.</p>

	<p>This information standard describes the overarching governance and assurance framework which will be adopted by the UK Core FHIR Board and the UK Core FHIR Delivery Senior Leadership Team. The intention of the framework is to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a clear understanding among all health and care professionals, and their IT system providers, of when and how FHIR resources should be used • an agreed set of FHIR resources, available in one repository, for use as the foundation of data sharing across health and care • a common, rigorous approach to development of FHIR profiles, thereby ensuring correct usage and facilitating interoperability, in near real-time, improving care delivery and outcomes • a focus on those use cases which support national priorities, with a supporting roadmap for implementation • an ongoing alignment with national data standards, including those approved by the DAPB for use in England, ensuring consistency and reducing confusion, minimising risk to patients <p>This information standard does not determine specific use, though priority use cases will be set by the UK Core FHIR Board and these, and supporting FHIR resources, will be made publicly available for health and care organisations, and system suppliers, to implement in appropriate settings.</p> <p>Note that individual FHIR resources, including profiles, will not be subject to DAPB approval on a separate basis but will only be available for use as specified by the UK Core FHIR governance process. However, to test the process, DAPB has been given appropriate confidence of its utility and value through the development of five FHIR profiles covering: patient, practitioner, organisation, location and practitioner role. In addition, DAPB expects that developers of products and data sets for use in England which include FHIR resources (in whatever way) will submit their artefacts for DAPB assurance, approval and publication.</p> <p>Using UK Core in this way will support safe and consistent “system to system” sharing of information, and with the appropriate safeguards, between local and national systems. While only England approval is provided by DAPB, the development is for UK-wide usage. This will allow use within each country and cross border interactions, across health and social care.</p>
Scope (Health and Social Care Act 2012)	Health Services; NHS Services; Adult Social Care
Applies to	<p>The standard applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all health and care organisations in England sharing patient information between Health and Care IT Systems across national and local boundaries

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all owners of data sets and data collections within the Department of Health and Social Care and its Arms Length Bodies who must consider the use of UK Core for their developments • all owners of technical (including interoperability) standards within the Department of Health and Social Care and its Arms Length Bodies who must consider the use of UK Core for their developments.
Impacts upon	Implementation of this standard impacts all Health and Care IT Systems Suppliers who should consider update of any existing FHIR assets to be in line with the UK Core.
Legal authority	This information standard is published under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
Link to further documentation	<p>The Requirements Specification and Implementation Guidance are available on the NHS Digital website: www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dapb4020</p> <p>Further guidance is published by NHS Digital: https://simplifier.net/guide/HL7FHIRUKCoreDesignandDevelopmentApproach/Home</p>
Contacts	
Sponsor	Simon Eccles, Chief Clinical Information Officer for Health and Care NHS England and NHS Improvement
SRO	Irina Bolychevsky, Director of Standards and Interoperability, NHS England and NHS Improvement
Business Lead	Dave Crampin, FHIR Product Owner, NHS Digital
Help Desk	<p>For information relating to the UK Core governance process: HL7 UK Secretariat: secretariat@hl7.org.uk</p> <p>For information relating to Clinical and Technical Assurance and the development and release of UK Core assets: NHS Digital Interoperability Standards Team (IOPS): interoperabilityteam@nhs.net</p>
Dates	
Implementation and conformance dates	There is no set conformance date for this information standard but those in scope of the standard (as set out above) must now determine its impact and make plans to address that impact.
Post Implementation Review date	<p>Note that as a condition of DAPB approval, 6-monthly reports will be submitted by the UK Core Board for review by the DAPB.</p> <p>A full post implementation review will be included with the report submitted nearest to 28 February 2023.</p>

The controlled version of this Information Standards Notice is published on the NHS Digital website: www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/isns