**Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise**



**IHE Information Technology Infrastructure (ITI)**

White Paper

**Revision <X.0>**

Date: <August XX, 2015>

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**Foreword**

Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) is an international initiative to promote the use of standards to achieve interoperability among health information technology (HIT) systems and effective use of electronic health records (EHRs). IHE provides a forum for care providers, HIT experts and other stakeholders in several clinical and operational domains to reach consensus on standards-based solutions to critical interoperability issues.

The primary output of IHE is system implementation guides, called IHE Profiles. IHE publishes each profile through a well-defined process of public review and trial implementation and gathers profiles that have reached final text status into an IHE Technical Frameworks.

For more information regarding IHE in general, see [www.ihe.net](http://www.ihe.net). For more technical information, see the IHE Technical Frameworks General Introduction <insert link here when available>. For on-going development work, see [wiki.ihe.net](ftp://ftp.ihe.net/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.Outlook/8HNMF0PH/wiki.ihe.net).

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*<Editors notes:*

*Editors notes are denoted by brackets <> and italicized. All editors notes should be deleted prior to publication..*

*All White Papers must be published by the IHE Document Publication specialist, not by individual domains. White papers must be scheduled in advance for publication as part of the regular publication process by the domain co-chair.*

*Unlike the Supplement Template where the format must not be changed, white paper content is not particularly regulated. Any sections of this document may be deleted, removed, or changed.*

*Use of capitalization: Please follow standard English grammar rules (e.g., only proper nouns and names are upper case). For example, “Modality Actor” is upper case, but “an actor which fulfills the role of a modality” is lower case. Do not use upper case to emphasize a word/topic.>*

# Introduction

This document, the IHE Information Technology Infrastructure (ITI) “ Health IT Standards for Health Information Management (HIM) Practices” White Paper, describes the need for and value of aligning HIM business practices and capabilities of standards-based HIT products. The White Paper will demonstrate the alignment between HIM practices (workflow checklist, actions) and capabilities of HIT products to support these actions.

## Purpose of the Health IT Standards for Health Information Management (HIM) Practices White Paper

This white paper is intended to address is the current misalignment of health information management (HIM) practices in healthcare organizations with the capabilities of health information systems (HIS) (Electronic Health Record Systems (EHRS), Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) and others) to support these systems in an electronic environment. HIM professionals, standards developers and health information technology (HIT) vendors do not usually collaborate, so the latter two – standards developers and vendors ⎯are largely unfamiliar with HIM practices and the extent to which these practices can be better supported by HIT standards and standards-based HIT products. As a result, the integrity, reliability, accuracy, and protection of health information are at the least, ineffective and at the worst, at risk when health information management practices are not supported by HIT products. It is difficult enough to meet today's goals of improved quality and outcomes, reduced risk, and increased collaboration at healthcare organizations when the data is not adequately managed nor sufficiently leveraged. Our proposal does not can lead the industry in a better direction to help solving these problems.

The use of IT in the clinical setting is no longer in question – it is happening – and as a result, there is an imperative to improve its use and subsequent outcomes. Stakeholders are already seeing unintended problems with information management in the electronic environment associated with failure to ensure accurate data capture, failure to identify the record of care (legal health record); issues associated with e-discovery and e-forensics; and the implications for appearances of fraud and abuse when copy and paste functionality is used inappropriately. Recommendations for improving electronic documentation creation include defining HIT content standards, developing guidelines for vendors and users of HIT systems for the appropriate use of documentation techniques (information governance) to ensure complete, accurate, and quality documentation.[[1]](#footnote-1)

We propose to develop a White Paper on the need for and value of aligning HIM business practices and capabilities of standards-based HIT products. This activity has AHIMA leadership support as a key component of AHIMA's overall institutional strategy approved by the AHIMA Board to develop guidelines, operating rules and standards for healthcare documentation practices. Based on the outcomes of the new globally-focused AHIMA initiative to translate Information Governance (IG) principles[[2]](#footnote-2) into HIM principles,[[3]](#footnote-3) we will develop a framework and a roadmap for developing standards for HIT products[[4]](#footnote-4) aimed to support HIM practices.

The goal of the White Paper is to

1. to demonstrate the alignment between HIM practices (workflow checklist, actions) and capabilities of HIT products to support these actions
2. to inform the development of national and international HIT interoperability standards for HIT products for identified HIT product capabilities
3. to create the roadmap for the development of these standards.

## Intended Audience

The intended audience of the IHE Information Technology Infrastructure (ITI) “ Health IT Standards for Health Information Management (HIM) Practices” is:

This White Paper will be applicable to various health information systems such as EHRS, LIMS, pharmacy, public health, research and other information systems involved in the management of health information.

The following standards will be relevant to this effort:

HIM Business Standards

1. AHIMA Information Governance Principles for Healthcare, 2014
2. AHIMA First Information Governance Benchmarking White Paper, May 2014
3. ASTM E-31 Standards on HIM practices (URL: <http://www.astm.org/BOOKSTORE/BOS/TOCS_2014/14.01.html> )

HIT Standards

1. HL7 Electronic Health Record Lifecycle Model R1, January 2008 [with additional information from the forthcoming2014/2015 Release2 ]
2. ISO 21089, Health Informatics –Trusted End-to-End Information Flows, 2004 [with additional information from the current new update underway in ISO/TC215]
3. IHE ITI Technical Framework including
   1. Cross-Document Workflow (XDW) Integration Profile
   2. Integration Profiles related to Information Security
   3. Other
4. ISO/TC 215 Standards on Privacy and Security
5. ISO/TC 215 Standards on Medical Records

1. Sue Bowman, MJ, RHIA, CCS, FAHIMA. “Impact of Electronic Health Record Systems on Information Integrity: Quality and Safety Implications.” *Perspectives in Health Information Management* (Fall 2013): 1-19. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Cohasset Associates | AHIMA 2014 Information Governance in Healthcare: Benchmarking White Paper. URL: www.ahima.org [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. AHIMA Information Governance Principles for Healthcare (IGPHC)™ – as of July 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Interoperability standards are referred to a group (a bundle) of HIT standards assembled in an interoperability specification document (integration profile) that specify the use of these standards to support a specific or a number of specific HIM Use Case (s), i.e., examples of HIM practice(s). Interoperability standards support semantic, technical and functional compatibility of information systems to allow for seamless data flows and data sharing according to the information governance principles. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)