



Draft National Healthcare Interoperability Plan

Building Australia's digitally connected healthcare system

Our Goal

The primary goal of healthcare interoperability is to support safe, secure, efficient, and quality care through an ecosystem of connected providers that conveniently and seamlessly shares high-quality data with the right people at the right time.

The Plan supports the strategic priority in the National Digital Health Strategy to deliver high-quality data with a commonly understood meaning that can be used with confidence.

Principles

- Health information is discoverable and accessible
- The value of care delivered increases as more digital health systems are connected
- Use of health information supports individual's choice and access to information
- Interoperability system design is informed by national digital health system maturity.
- National healthcare identifiers are used across the healthcare sector
- Core national healthcare digital infrastructure is used across the healthcare sector
- National digital health standards are agreed and adopted
- Investment supports interoperability

Benefits

Individuals have access and control their secure information so it can improve their health and experience of care

Healthcare providers have timely access to information they need to improve clinical decision-making and care

Healthcare provider organisations can safely share information to support best-practice models of care

Funders and regulators able to inform decisions that support value-based care and best practice regulation

	Identity	Standards	Information sharing	Innovation
	Health information associated with the right people	Common meaning of health information	Sending, receiving, and finding health information	Initiatives that drive interoperability
Immediate and ongoing milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt nationally agreed healthcare identifiers in future digital health initiatives involving exchange of health information • Roll out Provider Connect Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a standards catalogue to support easy search and retrieval of Agency specifications and associated standards • The Agency to co-design specifications and use of standards with industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jurisdictions to harmonise interoperability requirements in future procurements • Prioritise work on the capability to discover health information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress priority work on aged care, electronic requesting and referrals that improve interoperability
Short term milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a roadmap to support the wider take-up of healthcare identifiers • Introduce a program to improve match rates when using identifiers in data searches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency to promote the use of FHIR as part of its modernisation program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build an online toolkit to support interoperability projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress further initiatives such as building a discoverability service for health information
Medium term milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of healthcare organisation identifiers to identify network structures • Promote the core use of the National Health Services Directory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop resources to support mapping between national and other common terminologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate options for supporting a national approach to individual consent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress further initiatives such as enhancing systems to support shared care

Measuring progress

Baseline survey of Interoperability covering GPs, Pharmacies and Hospitals

Annual report on progress and key benefit metrics

Assess current experience with digital maturity models for wider use in Australia

Repeat Interoperability survey to assess progress

Advance the rollout of an agreed national approach to digital health maturity assessment

Review the Plan and commence work on the next Plan