



# Interchange

Standards, Architecture and Privacy News

## Infoway plans new programs for building health e-connections



Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2009 edition of *Interchange*, which brings you updates on *Infoway's* standards, architecture and IT privacy and security news.

At the recent Spring Partnership conference, I spoke on the topic of *Building health e-connections: Transforming health care and*

*stimulating the economy*. I discussed the direction *Infoway* plans to undertake in the light of the \$500 million allocated to it in the January 2009 federal budget.

When received, the funds will be used to expand the use of electronic medical records (EMRs) by Canadian physicians as well as to invest directly in point-of-service (PoS) systems for those physicians and for hospitals systems. To ensure interoperability of the new systems, *Infoway* will invest with vendors based on their response to a Request for Qualification, and then certify PoS systems for interoperability, privacy and security. We will also invest in tools for vendors to more easily enable the uptake of our standards and interoperability with the EHR. Finally, we will begin investing in the enhancement of PoS systems for the purposes of health system use of data (secondary use) from those systems.

These new programs and activities will help *Infoway* and our partners to move forward on the goal of ensuring 50 per cent of Canadians have an electronic health record by the end of 2010, as well as realizing the benefits of those systems.

A report on the Spring Partnership conference is on page 3 of this newsletter and you can read the presentations on our website at [www.inforoute.ca](http://www.inforoute.ca).

### In this issue

- SOA award for *Infoway* Blueprint
- Project update: e-Health Blueprint 2015
- *Infoway's* Certification Service
- Partnership Conference report
- Standards Collaborative news:
  - ◆ Maintenance Services ◆ Governance structure
- Education report
- ISO/TC215 - Health Informatics Update
- HL7 News

In other news, our e-Health Certification Services were launched this spring and they will be invaluable in supporting the activities outlined above. You can find a report on what's happening in that area on page 2.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest issue of *Interchange*, and I invite you to submit articles or ideas for items for our Fall 2009 issue. Now, read on.

Dennis Giokas  
Chief Technology Officer  
Canada Health Inforoute

## Infoway's Blueprint nets SOA award

Canada Health Inforoute's EHR Blueprint recently won top recognition in the health care category of the 2008 Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) Case Study Competition sponsored by the SOA Consortium and *CIO Magazine*. *Infoway* is the first not-for-profit organization to win an award in the competition. Dennis Giokas, *Infoway's* chief technology officer, accepted the award on behalf of *Infoway* at the SOA

Consortium meeting in Santa Clara, California, last December.

The goal of the SOA Case Study Competition was to highlight business success stories and lessons learned to provide proof points and insights to other organizations considering or pursuing SOA adoption. To qualify for the competition, the SOA project had to have been completed with demonstrated business results. *Infoway's* Blueprint was honoured for demonstrating business success and lessons learned in SOA adoption.



*At left, Dennis Giokas receives Infoway's award from Dr. Richard Mark Soley, chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Object Management Group, Inc. (OMG®), and Executive Director of the SOA Consortium.*

## Project update: e-Health Blueprint 2015

The e-Health Blueprint 2015 project, launched April 2009, is an opportunity, on a pan-Canadian basis, to determine the scope and nature of the architecture, standards and solutions needed to enable patient access to quality care. The project will define the requirements for standards and architecture that align with *Infoway's* Vision 2015, with a focus on the following domains:

- EMR, Physician Order Entry and Decision Support;
- Consumer Health;
- Chronic Disease Management; and
- Wait Times.

Within these domains, new potential functions and architectural components will be required at a systemic level. Requirements identified in Phase 0/1 that will be further defined in Phase 2 include:

- Appointment Brokering;
- Discovery of patient / provider relationships;
- eReferral;
- Clinical Decision Support;
- Wait time identification & management;
- Additional registries (e.g. Organization, User, Program, Health Services, and Application Instance) as well as

expansion on the relationship of the new registries to existing registries; and

- Additional new architectural services and orchestrations such as Terminology Services, Publish-Subscribe Services, Clinical Template Services, Queuing Services, and Extract Transformation and Load Services to support Data Warehousing.

To support the definition of the e-Health Blueprint 2015, a Reference Group is being established, and will be comprised of representatives from the clinical community, jurisdictions, vendor community, the Standards Collaborative, and related initiatives.

Completion is scheduled for September 2010. For more information, please contact the Project Manager, Karen Kuhn at [KKuhn@infoway-inforoute.ca](mailto:KKuhn@infoway-inforoute.ca).

— Contributed by Colleen Rogers & Karen Kuhn, project managers, standards and architecture, Canada Health Infoway

## Canada Health Infoway's e-Health Certification Services

*Infoway* launched its new e-Health Certification Service in February 2009 to help accelerate the introduction of private, secure and interoperable electronic health record (EHR) systems that leverage Canada's substantial investments in e-health.

The new service began with pre-implementation certification for consumer health platforms. This is the first in a series of certification services that will be offered by *Infoway*, including certification for electronic medical records (EMRs), Consumer Health Applications and other key domains.

At the end of *Infoway's* 2008-2009 fiscal year, 283 EHR system projects were underway across Canada. Many of them are capturing and storing the personal health information of Canadians at their points of care. *Infoway's* new certification service works with jurisdictions and vendors to ensure EHR system projects conform to pan-Canadian standards for functionality, privacy, security, interoperability and management.

Certified solutions bearing the *Infoway* certification mark will be recognized by jurisdictions considering investing in that particular health-information technology. The *Infoway* mark will be their assurance that the certified solutions conform to pan-Canadian standards. Certification may also offer vendors a competitive advantage beyond Canada's borders thanks to global recognition of the *Infoway* brand.

To learn more about *Infoway's* e-Health Certification Services, visit [www.infoway-inforoute.ca/certificationservices](http://www.infoway-inforoute.ca/certificationservices).

— *Contributed by Grant Gillis, Director, Certification Services, Canada Health Infoway* [ggillis@infoway-inforoute.ca](mailto:ggillis@infoway-inforoute.ca)

## Connect! Collaborate! Implement! A resounding success!

Always well attended, the Spring 2009 *Infoway* Partnership Conference, *Connect! Collaborate! Implement!*, attracted an audience of 227 Canadian and international attendees including 64 first-time attendees, SC Members and non-members, who enjoyed networking opportunities such as our Infofair and a social event.

Vish Sankaran, program director for federal health architecture at the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC)/United States department of health and human services, engaged our audience with his keynote address entitled “Implementing Health Information Exchange across the U.S. Federal Sector.” His presentation highlighted the U.S. experience in establishing a national infrastructure and cross-border collaboration opportunities to promote the advancement of health information exchange for Canada and the U.S.

The conference offered presentation tracks to address the diversity of its audience’s interests. This spring’s Business and Project Management track offered presentations such as Developing the E-Health Blueprint 2015, and e-Health Investments— A Clinical Perspective. The Implementation track focused on presentations about the alignment of pan-Canadian terminologies, and Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) in Canada. We also engaged both audiences for common-interest topics such as certification services, and standardized cancer pathology and surgery reporting.

In addition, we hosted Standards Development Organizations’ Canadian constituency meetings for Health Level 7 (HL7), International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO) and International Organization for Standardization/Technical Committee 215 (ISO/TC215) and facilitated meetings for the Standards Collaborative Working Groups.

Our next *Infoway* conference will take place November 2-4 at the Delta Meadowvale Hotel in Mississauga, Ontario. Stay tuned to the Partnership Page on our website for details of the upcoming conference, as well as presentations from “Connect! Collaborate! Implement!”

— *Contributed by Jennifer Hall, manager, client services, Canada Health Infoway*

### Mark Your Calendar: November 2-5, 2009

*Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre  
Mississauga, Ontario*

Canada Health Infoway invites you to attend the inaugural annual symposium on the implementation of Canada's Electronic Health Record systems. The symposium provides your best opportunity to get involved, network and find the practical solutions needed to succeed in bringing Canadians' health records into the 21st century.

It's also an excellent time to engage with partners from the vendor community, the standards community, privacy and security experts, jurisdictions and clinicians for their input and perspectives.

As well, the Fall 2009 *Infoway* Partnership Conference will be integrated into the program.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. To pre-register and for details and updates throughout the summer, visit [www.infoway-inforoute.ca](http://www.infoway-inforoute.ca).

## SC updates

### Maintenance Services

Maintenance Services achieved a major milestone with the launch of MR2009 in March 2009. A total of 140 Requests For Changes (RFCs) were received, resulting in changes to 900 technical, 700 business, and 3,000 terminology standards artifacts. These revisions will improve stability and clinical and business relevance of pan-Canadian Standards.

MR2010 is in its initial planning phase, with target requirement gathering planned for early 2010. The scope and schedule of MR2010 will incorporate implementation business needs and international standards alignment endorsed by SCWGs. MR2010 will achieve further improvements in specification stability.

The SC sincerely appreciates the continued support of the stakeholder community to ensure timely and efficient standards development, maintenance and implementation. Maintenance Services and the SCWGs will continue to support stakeholder business and technical needs, while Maintenance Services is committed to supporting ongoing needs by offering services including: Q&As, delta releases and planned releases.

— *Contributed by Simon Yan, maintenance services manager, Canada Health Infoway*

## SC Governance Structure

We are pleased to announce there is almost a full complement of SC Governance committee members and Standards Collaborative Working Group (SCWG) leaders.

The SC Governance committees provide strategic direction, coordination and guidance on the development and alignment of health information specifications in the Standards Product Life Cycle in Canada. The SCWGs review and provide feedback on these specifications and architecture activities as the specifications proceed through the Life Cycle.

The SC conducts interim elections to fill positions that become available between annual elections, and communicates with applicable constituent groups and organizations to confirm appointed members as required.

There are always opportunities for people who are interested in participating in the development of pan-Canadian health information specifications. For information on the SC Governance committees or SCWGs, please contact the Infodesk.

— *Contributed by Bryna Smith, project manager, Canada Health Infoway*

## Get involved, become a Standards Collaborative member today

The Standards Collaborative (SC) continues to grow. Membership offers benefits such as discounts on SC Partnership events and education, access to pan-Canadian standards and licensed standards material such as HL7 and SNOMED CT®, as well as networking opportunities through our membership directory. More than 227 member organizations strong, the SC offers corporate, individual, and student memberships.

## Prince Edward Island, the first...

Watch [Adopting pan-Canadian Standards: PEI's experience](#), a new video about the first live system in a jurisdiction to implement the Drug Information System (DIS) using pan-Canadian DIS standards.

The Honourable Robert Ghiz, Premier of Prince Edward Island, clinicians and others share their perspective on the benefits of the DIS. While representatives from *Infoway*, DeltaWare Systems Inc., ProPharm Ltd. and Telus Health Solutions, backed by Emergis, share their recent experiences of implementing pan-Canadian standards.

Join the Standards Collaborative to access our pan-Canadian standards.

## Are you passionate about learning? Leading change? Improving Patient care? Looking for a competitive edge?

Last fall, we conducted a survey with our stakeholders to find out what was important to them in terms of education.

Some of the questions asked included: At what level of detail do you want to consume your education? What is your preferred medium of delivery? Do you have specific education needs within the next 18 months?

The responses indicated our stakeholders want education that is accessible in a variety of learning mediums from self-paced e-learning, to leader-led formal classroom learning. We agree. The business model created in response to this survey is self-sustaining, available, and fit for purpose.

We will continue to support jurisdictions through the creation of custom education sessions as needed to support their implementation.

Concurrent with jurisdictional outreach we will be building education curricula customized to our diverse client base so a business analyst, an implementer, or a vendor gets the right information in their choice of language at their desired level.

Throughout the year we will be increasing our education offerings to include electronic media, such as e-learning, podcasts, and webcasts, to enhance our clients experience and complement our current leader-led offerings.

See [our current education offerings](#).

We will also continue to expand, meeting and exceeding the ever changing needs of our clients as implementation for the electronic health record accelerates. Taught by leading subject matter experts from Canada and around the world, students can expect world-class training for HL7 and SNOMED CT at

## Contact Information Infoway Standards Collaborative

For any information or questions about the Standards Collaborative, including pan-Canadian or international standards or our services, please use the following phone numbers:

Toll-free calls: 1-877-595-3417

Local calls in Toronto: 416-595-3417

Or send an e-mail to the following addresses:  
[standards@infoway-inforoute.ca](mailto:standards@infoway-inforoute.ca)

at introductory and advanced levels in which they will not only learn concepts, but also how they are applied and implemented in the pan- Canadian landscape.

Looking for competitive advantage? Get Certified. Our Education Summit also provides HL7 certification tutorials and the opportunity to write the certification exam.

The next Education Summit is scheduled for the fall in the Toronto area. Please stay tuned for full registration details and our course catalogue, which will be released shortly.

— *Contributed by Jennifer Hall, manager education and training, Canada Health Infoway*

## ISO/TC215 –Health Informatics Key work items from the Edinburgh Plenary Meeting, April 26-29, 2009

This year's ISO/TC215 Plenary Meetings took place in Edinburgh, Scotland, and included joint Working Group meetings with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) TC251 – Health Informatics. The Standards Development Organization (SDO) Global Health Informatics Standardization Harmonization meetings also took place, furthering the strong collaboration of the SDOs on several work items.

While many important projects were discussed, there was a particular focus, both at the working group level and at the SDO harmonization level, on two key initiatives:

1. The New Work Item Proposal (NWIP), Quality Requirements and Methodologies for Detailed Clinical Models (DCM) went out for ballot:
  - Setting guidelines for determining clinical information for EHRs and electronic message communications;
  - Establishing quality criteria for the meta-information, content description, data specification, terminology binding, and generic modelling of DCM;
  - Determining a methodology to model the DCM; and
  - Setting quality criteria for DCM repositories.

Responses to this NWIP ballot were due by June 24, 2009, and additional domestic opportunities to contribute to the development of this work item will be provided as it progresses through the ISO balloting stages. Domestic activity is being coordinated under SCWG 2 Delivery of Care, thus for more information please refer to the SCWG 2 forum at <http://forums.infoway-inforoute.ca/ESCWG/>.

2. The Standards Knowledge Management Tool (SKMT) and the International Health Informatics Glossary and Document Registry combined, is an open, single source tool that manages and supports the harmonization of terms and definitions and document development. The scope currently encompasses documents developed by the SDOs that participate in the Global Health Informatics Standardization Harmonization (ISO/TC215, HL7, CEN/TC251, IHTSDO and CDISC). The tool currently includes information on approximately 86 documents with 1,938 term definitions.

While still under development, the tool is on-line, active, and open for registration:

[http://www.cred.ca/skmt\\_glossary](http://www.cred.ca/skmt_glossary)

For further information on ISO/TC215 work items, please see the most recent work program available from the ISO Constituency forum:

<http://forums.infoway-inforoute.ca/ISO/Work%20Program/ISO%20TC%20215%20International%20Work%20Program/?14@759.rc3nabSCBBm.18@>

Furthering the work of ISO/TC215 standards development, the next Joint Working Group Meeting is scheduled to be held October 18-21, 2009, in Durham, North Carolina, U.S.A.

For more information on ISO/TC 215 activities, please contact the *Infoway* Standards Collaborative Infodesk at [standards@infoway-inforoute.ca](mailto:standards@infoway-inforoute.ca)

— *Contributed by Andrea Ciemy, standards analyst, Canada Health Infoway*

## HL7 Domestic and International Updates

### HL7 Canadian Constituency Update

The HL7 Canadian Constituency held its most recent meeting at the Spring 2009 Partnership conference. This session was attended by some 50 participants. Michael van Campen, HL7 Canadian head of delegation, provided updates on HL7 Inc. as well domestic HL7 activities within Canada.

Some highlights included:

- SDO Harmonization Initiative update
  - ◆ The SDO Harmonization Initiative has expanded since initiation. Current projects include: Datatypes, EHR communication architecture (ISO13606), BRIDG Domain Analysis Model for Protocol Driven Biomedical Research, Pharmacovigilance and Medicinal Product

Identification, Clinical Trials Registration and Results, and Glossary and Document Registry.

- ◆ The SDO Harmonization Initiative recently added Clinica Data Interchange, Standards Consortium (CDISC) to the existing members of HL7, ISO, CEN and IHTSDO will likely join shortly.
- Highlights of the HL7 road map initiative;
  - ◆ The HL7 road map outlines the business plan for the HL7 organization for the next three years.
  - ◆ The roadmap task force has split into three subgroups: Technical, Strategic & Operations, Finance, Marketing, Education & Communications.
  - ◆ Focus on two to three projects to define necessary details, including resource and funding requirements.
- Updates from the One Member One Vote (OMOV) initiative;
  - ◆ OMOV focuses on equality on ballots for all members of HL7, represented through organizations or Affiliates (countries).
  - ◆ At the June HL7 Board meeting, the Board approved the removal of the cap on Affiliate votes (was eight, now will be set to 10 per cent of membership numbers) and to develop a global directory of HL7 members.
  - ◆ The first item implies that HL7 Canada will now have 16 votes instead of the current eight (capped) votes on HL7 ballots.
- HL7 Canada Council (see below):
  - ◆ Grant Gillis has taken on a new challenge as director of *Infoway's* Certification Services area. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Grant for his leadership, vision, and contribution to the HL7 portfolio both in Canada and internationally. We are also pleased to announce Margie Kennedy has assumed the role of director, services, responsible for the HL7 portfolio.

### HL7 Canada Council

The HL7 Canada Council Terms of Reference were endorsed by the HL7 Canada Council in February and approved by SCCC in March 2009. The Terms of Reference are available on the HL7 Canadian Constituency forum:

<http://forums.infoway-inforoute.ca/webx?293@793.0QPvaproB9J.20@.ef0ab1d>.

### HL7 May 2009 Working Group Meeting (WGM) in Kyoto, Japan

This Working Group Meeting marked its fifth HL7 Inc. meeting held outside of the U.S. with a total of 229 attendees. The Canadian delegation team participated in various

meetings in several domain work groups such as Patient Care, Lab, and Pharmacy as well as technical work groups such as Infrastructure and Implementation.

Please see below for progress and updates made by the various work groups:

- iEHR (under the Patient Care scope) balloted the Health Concern and Care Composition topics in the May ballot cycle. Short term goals of iEHR include:
  - ◆ Health concern topic negative comments were resolved and substantive changes were raised, thus it will be re-balloted in the September ballot cycle.
  - ◆ Care composition received one negative comment which resulted in a technical correction and will be republished in the near future as Draft Standard for Trial Use (DSTU).
- Lab (under Order/Observation scope) highlights included:
  - ◆ For the Human Lab Results topic, O&O agreed to change PlacerGroup classCode from “Grouper” to “Act” which would enable implementers to still constrain to Battery or Cluster. Canada has pre-adopted this in the Lab domain.
- For Registries, under Patient Administration scope, focus of the discussion was around the V3 and 2.8 Ballots. Highlights included:
  - ◆ The entire domain has been under DSTU which will expire in September Ballot. It will be re-balloted as Release 3 DSTU in the September Ballot Cycle.
  - ◆ Joint project with Services Orient Architecture (SOA) which intends to provide a pilot/proof-of-concept using existing HL7 Version 3 standards demonstrating that we can reuse HL7 content (messages structures as service payloads). The candidate pilot service will be based on the “Provider Registry” topic in the “Personnel Management” domain. The pilot will demonstrate how V3 message and document specifications may be reused in a way consistent with the new Enterprise Architecture for HL7 to develop service specification. The project will reuse the Entity Identity Service (EIS) functional specification to enhance the application roles and interactions specified in the HL7 Version topics corresponding to the identified services.
- For Pharmacy (CeRx), under Pharmacy scope, highlights included:
  - ◆ A gap analysis was completed on the current work items of the Common Product Model. This is a joint effort between Pharmacy and the O&O group. Changes for Pharmacy will be incorporated in Drug Knowledge-Base Query Topic, Release 2.
  - ◆ Drug Knowledge-Base Query Topic passed Normative status in the May ballot cycle.

◆ Medication Dispense and Supply Event topic was worked on during WGM including several updates made with Canadian requirements. It intends to be balloted as Normative in the September ballot cycle.

- Terminology also made progress at the WGM. Highlights include:
  - ◆ Re-engagement occurred with the Conformance WG. Criteria to be built will be useful in composing Canadian Terminology Conformance criteria.
  - ◆ Terminology Concept Domain naming conventions was discussed with the guidelines to be posted on the HL7 wiki space. Guidelines will be leveraged to facilitate domestic discussion on terminology requirements and apply as appropriate.
  - ◆ Core principles in the Vocab section will be leveraged into the SC terminology implementation guide.

### Offering of HL7 V2.6 Certification Exam

HL7 Inc. began offering the HL7 V2.6 certification at the January 2009 WGM. Canada, as an affiliate of HL7 Inc., will now also begin offering the HL7 V2.6 certification exam. This replaces the HL7 V2.5 certification exam.

For more information on HL7 certification testing, please visit the HL7 Certification website at [http://sl.infoway-inforoute.ca/content/dispPage.asp?cw\\_page=infostand\\_hl7can\\_certification\\_e](http://sl.infoway-inforoute.ca/content/dispPage.asp?cw_page=infostand_hl7can_certification_e) or contact us at [standards@infoway-inforoute.ca](mailto:standards@infoway-inforoute.ca).



## Interchange

*Interchange* is an e-publication of Canada Health Inforoute that brings you news about standards, architecture and privacy. In addition to news about *Inforoute*-developed standards, this newsletter also includes updates on HL7 and HL7 Canada, Partnership for Health Information Standards, Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) and ISO/TC 215 which are part of the *Inforoute* Standards Collaborative. We welcome submissions on standards and architecture-related topics of general interest to the health informatics standards community.

To comment, submit or suggest a news item or appointment, please e-mail Dennis Giokas at [archinfo@infoway-inforoute.ca](mailto:archinfo@infoway-inforoute.ca).

To subscribe to the e-distribution list, please visit our website at <http://www.infoway-inforoute.ca> and click on

### Successful HL7 V3 RIM, CDA, and V2.5 Certified Specialists

We are pleased to announce the following recent successful candidates in obtaining the HL7 V3 RIM and CDA certification:

#### V3 RIM:

- James E. Agnew
- Duane R. Bender
- Vasile Boitor
- Mark Boulton
- Scott Branton
- Ronald Connor
- Casey Foth
- Claudiu Grecu
- Rick Lambert
- Alvaro Lemos
- Anil Luthra
- Sergei Maxunov
- Ionut Mitrache
- Michael C. Morrison
- Jose Nunes
- Abhishek Pandey
- Norman A. Ramirez
- Tyler P. Sherwood
- Vincent Tran
- Tran H. Truong
- Peter M. Welch
- Vivian Woo
- Changyu Yin
- Janet Yu

#### CDA:

- Monica Harry

If you have any comments on HL7 internationally or locally, please feel free to contact the HL7 Canadian Constituency via email at: [HL7\\_Constituency@forums.infoway-inforoute.ca](mailto:HL7_Constituency@forums.infoway-inforoute.ca) or alternatively through the Standards Infodesk: [standards@infoway-inforoute.ca](mailto:standards@infoway-inforoute.ca).