International Patient Access

Committee Approval Date:
November 08, 2021

1. IG Proposal Approval: Vassil Motion /Eric second; No further discussion; 0 abstain; 0 against; 9 For

Publishing Lead:
Isaac Vetter

Contributing or Reviewing Work Groups:
Patient Care

FHIR Development Project Insight ID:
1722 · http://www.hl7.org/special/committees/projman/searchableprojectindex.cfm?FilterProjectNumber=1722

Scope of coverage:
Scope is limited to patient access scenarios using REST and SMART. The spec is intentionally international, it's targeted at national and regional regulators and FHIR Base and patient access API specification authors, as well as multi-national developers of apps and FHIR servers.

Content location:
https://github.com/HL7/fhir-ipa
https://build.fhir.org/ig/HL7/fhir-ipa/

Proposed IG Title:
International Patient Access

Proposed IG realm and code:
uv : ipa
FHIR Core version(s):
R4

Maintenance Plan:
This specification is volunteer developed with ongoing maintenance in the same fashion.

Short Description:
International Patient Access (IPA) defines a minimal, base set of FHIR profiles specifically intended to be used as-is, or built on top of by countries looking to enable patient access and patient-facing apps accessing data via FHIR.

Long Description:
International Patient Access (IPA) defines a minimal, base set of FHIR profiles specifically intended to be used as-is, or built on top of by countries looking to enable patient access and patient-facing apps accessing data via RESTful FHIR. In addition to profiling a minimal set of FHIR resources, this IG also specifies the use of SMART on FHIR for authentication and authorization. Consider using this implementation guide as a foundational building block for national or regional FHIR base or patient access specifications, or for multi-national applications and FHIR servers. The specification also defines the required and recommend RESTful interactions include search parameters.

Involved parties:
No external agencies were involved in the creation of this IG.

Expected implementations:
We anticipate adoption of this specific specification by national regulators, for example, Finland. More generally, the implementation guide is a subset of multiple pre-existing national-scale FHIR base or patient access specifications.

Content sources:
(I'm unsure what the word external means here -- outside of the project or HL7?) Many specifications are being consulted to determine requirements, see these confluence pages:
- IPA: international specification comparison - Patient Care - Confluence (hl7.org)
- IPA: national specification comparison - Patient Care - Confluence (hl7.org)

Example Scenarios:
- Patient using a 3rd party app to access and manage lab results for chronic disease management
- 3rd party disease-specific social network
- patient-mediated interoperability between providers

IG Relationships:
We're anticipating many other IGs depending upon IPA. Initial discussion around: IPS and US Core - For example, if US Core adopts a new profile, they will consult with IPA to reference the IPA profile.

Timelines:
The IPA project team has not held a connectathon track. We intend to in Jan, 2022. We'd really like to ballot at STU in Jan. Content is largely complete.

The project team believes that the intent of the connectathon requirement has been met in this specific case through other connectathon tracks, such as the Argonaut US Core track, SMART tracks as well as significant production deployment of RESTful FHIR APIs for common clinical data set for patient access.