The exchange and safe flow of healthcare data is enabled through widespread adoption of standardized vocabularies and secure, efficient information sharing practices. Boundaryless Information Flow™, rooted in evidence-based research and best practices, can improve healthcare systems through achievement of higher quality outcomes, streamlined business processes, reduction of fraud, and innovation enablement. We view the person at the center of information collection and sharing, though the number of stakeholders in the ecosystem is large and the levels of data aggregation many.

To improve health and healthcare by facilitating information flow throughout the healthcare ecosystem. In all aspects of its work, including evaluation of other architectural systems, the Forum applies the discipline and principles of enterprise architecture. When possible and appropriate, we build on and synthesize best practices developed by other standards-setting groups.

The Open Group Healthcare Forum has evaluated the Federal Health Information Model (FHIM) for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) Federal Health Architecture program. A plain-language White Paper is available here. The Forum is now in the process of considering the FHIM in the context of currently popular interoperability models, such as FHIR. Our aim is to recommend realistic paths to broad scale healthcare interoperability, taking into consideration the ecosystem in which healthcare and its many stakeholders operate. Our patient-centered approach is standards-based and seeks solutions to real business problems. Our focus includes traditional medical contexts and the burgeoning field of mobile health.
The Open Group Healthcare Forum

Benefits

Benefits to Healthcare Payers and Providers
- Influence standards development, and the products from Healthcare IT vendors, to ensure that your requirements for interoperable solutions are met
- Improve information flow within your organization and with partners in the care delivery ecosystem
- Address your pressing Healthcare IT business problems
- Speak to Healthcare vendors about improved interoperability and information flow
- Drive the vendor community towards less proprietary and more open solutions to reduce lock-in, and improve business efficiencies
- Gain business efficiencies through better information flow with ecosystem partners at a lower cost

Benefits to IT Hardware, Software, and Consulting Services Vendors and Medical Device Vendors
- Influence standards development, and get early access to emerging standards that affect your business
- Gain an understanding of customer pain-points and requirements
- Demonstrate leadership in Healthcare IT – show customers and prospects your commitment to improving information flow in Healthcare IT and in care delivery, and ultimately show your commitment to solving your customers' problems
- Participate in webcasts and case studies

More information

To learn more about The Open Group Healthcare Forum, please contact Jason Lee, PhD, Forum Director, at: j.lee@opengroup.org and visit The Open Group Healthcare Forum website at: www.opengroup.org/getinvolved/industryverticals/healthcare.

To discuss membership in The Open Group Healthcare Forum, please contact Steve Borchert, Membership Director, at: s.borchert@opengroup.org.

About The Open Group

The Open Group is a vendor-neutral and technology-neutral consortium, whose vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™ will enable access to integrated information within and between enterprises based on open standards and global interoperability. The Open Group works with customers, suppliers, consortia, and other standards bodies. Its role is to capture, understand, and address current and emerging requirements, establish policies, and share best practices; to facilitate interoperability, develop consensus, and evolve and integrate specifications and Open Source technologies; to offer a comprehensive set of services to enhance the operational efficiency of consortia; and to operate the industry's premier certification service.

Further information on The Open Group can be found at www.opengroup.org.

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