IHE’s Impact on the U.S. Health IT Agenda

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What is IHE?

*Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise* (IHE) is an International Standards Profiling Organization

**Vision:** To enable seamless and secure access to information whenever and wherever it is needed

**Mission:** To improve healthcare by providing specifications, tools and services for interoperability

[www.ihe.net](http://www.ihe.net)
IHE Enables Interoperability by:

- Developing consensus-based Technical Frameworks (specifications) and Integration Profiles and making them available in the public domain

- Coordinating the use of established standards, such as DICOM, HL7, & CDISC, to address clinical needs, in support of optimal, coordinated patient care

- Facilitating conformance testing to elicit feedback and demonstrate adherence of products to IHE specifications

Systems developed in accordance with IHE communicate with one another better, are easier to implement, and enable care providers to use information more effectively.
IHE’s role in the HIT Standards ecosystem

- Standards Development Organizations – Standards, Content, Messages, Architectures (e.g., HL7 2.x messaging, 3.x transport, FHIR, C-CDA)
- Framework/Profiling Organizations – Building Blocks/Architectures Into Assemblies that Solve Specific Interoperability Needs (e.g., IHE PIX, PDQ, XDS, DEC)
- Projects – All of the above combined into functional interoperability solutions constrained to meet the needs of a country or health system or other related need
What is the impact of IHE?

- IHE provides workflow driven standards-based interoperability solutions freely available in its Technical Frameworks and Integration Profiles
- IHE specifications are vetted through the ISO process
- Removes barriers to create seamless and secure access to health data
- Reduces costs by eliminating the need for interfaces between systems
IHE Organization

IHE International Board

Global Development

Regional Deployment

Anatomic Pathology
Cardiology
Dental
Eye Care

Endoscopy
IT Infrastructure
Laboratory
Patient Care Coordination
Patient Care Devices

Pharmacy
Quality, Research & Public Health
Radiation Oncology
Radiology

IHE NORTH AMERICA
Canada
USA

IHE ASIA-OCEANIA
China
Japan
Korea
Taiwan

IHE EUROPE
Austria
France
Germany
Italy
Netherlands
Norway
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
UK

21 Societies Serving as Sponsors

Over 650 Contributing Vendors & Organizations
What is the IHE North American Connectathon?

The IHE North American Connectathon is a cross-vendor, live, supervised, and structured testing event with over 100 participating vendors and 600+ engineers and IT architects. All these organizations and IT experts converge for one full week of interoperability testing and problem resolution. Participants test their products against multiple vendors using real-world clinical scenarios contained in IHE's Integration Profiles.

Source: [www.iheusa.org/connectathon.aspx](http://www.iheusa.org/connectathon.aspx)
What is an IHE Connectathon?

A Sneak Peak at the Testing Floor
IHE USA, a National Deployment Committee

Mission:
• Improve our nation’s healthcare by promoting the adoption and use of IHE and other world-class standards, tools, and services for interoperability.
• Engages all levels of the public and private sector participants to test, implement, and use standards-based solutions for all health information needs.

Vision:
• Improving the quality, value, and safety of healthcare by enabling rapid, scalable, and secure access to health information at the point of care
Need for IHE Frameworks and Profiles 

to Support US HIT Interoperability - Examples

- HPD (Healthcare Provider Directory) Federated – Demonstration in HIMSS Interoperability Showcase
- The Next Generation Troika – DAF, SDC, DS4P
- PCD Semantic Interoperability Initiative – IHE USA Ask
- Public Health Reporting (CDC)
- Rapid Closed Loop Testing– key role for IHE USA testing services in supporting these initiatives (“UL”)
IHE USA Participation in the IHE International Cycle – Putting the D in Deployment
Proposal, Development, Validation, Certification, Deployment

1. Development Process
   - Identify available standards (e.g., ISO, HL7, DICOM, IETF, OASIS)
   - Develop technical specifications

2. Deployment-Validation Process
   - Document Use Case Requirements
   - Testing at Connectathons
   - IHE Demonstrations

3. Deployment-Production Process
   - Timely access to information
   - Easy to integrate products

Implement/Extension
Implement/Roadmap
Implement/Ask IHE USA
Testing and Certification
Education
What’s In it for Me / My Organization?

All Healthcare IT Professionals

• Work directly with ONC and leading SDOs to shape the nation’s interoperability future
• Act as a key player to close gaps in HIT workflow
• Learn from US HIT leaders, innovators, and people impacting change in the US
• Build your resume and network
• Lead change in patient safety and healthcare through innovative projects (mHealth, etc.)
• Participate with IHE Int’l and IHE USA on key international initiatives

Example - Clinical: Nursing Community

• Build communication in the nursing community in support of HIT that addresses nursing challenges
• Voice concerns on common workflow challenges and provide input on IT standards
• Mobilize industry support to prepare proposals for SDOs to create solutions and address patient nursing care potential
• Gain valuable education on IT standards and how to solve HIT challenges
• Provide input on IT Standards that Impact Nursing
• Facilitate advocacy on nursing data and processes in healthcare IT standards
How Can You Help Advance Interoperability?

Impact the U.S. national health IT agenda by actively participating in IHE USA’s inaugural committees focused on implementation, education and certification.

www.iheusa.org/getinvolved.aspx
IHE USA Certification

• To advance IHE USA’s mission to improve our nation’s healthcare by promoting the adoption and use of IHE and other world-class standards, tools and services for interoperability
• Ensure products that leverage advanced IHE interoperability capabilities are delivered to the marketplace
• Reviewed by an independent body using ISO methods and standards, the industry’s highest level of quality for testing and certification
• Makes sure that everything examined in the process is verified, documented, repeatable and traceable.
Interoperability for Dummies, IHE Edition

Download your free eBook at www.iheusa.org.

Chapters include:

• **IHE Basics**: find out how IHE can help you meet your interoperability goals.

• **Secure Document Sharing**: examine the current state of document exchange, look at some different scenarios for exchanging information, and find out how IHE is improving the process.

• **Get Involved**: Discover the many opportunities IHE offers for stakeholders and clinicians to work together.
Infusion Interoperability Workshop

- Examine the current capabilities, risks and benefits of Infusion Interoperability in healthcare
- Analyze the implementation challenges for Nursing, Pharmacy, and IT
- Explore the role of data and analytics in driving practice change
- Describe the role of standards as a foundation for infusion interoperability

Where: HIMSS Innovation Center, Cleveland, Ohio
When: March 25-26, 2014
Sponsored by: IHE USA and CareFusion
Save the Date!

IHE North American Connectathon
January 26 – 30, 2015
HIMSS Innovation Center in Cleveland, OH.

Registration will open in Fall 2014.

www.iheusa.org/connectathon.aspx