

Welcome to the HL7 Community chat @ <http://chat.hl7.org>

We welcome everyone with an interest in standards development to participate in the HL7 community. Chat.hl7.org is intended to support all HL7 work groups and projects other than those related to FHIR, which are covered on a separate, parallel Zulip instance ([chat.fhir.org](http://chat.fhir.org)). General help on using Zulip can be found at <https://chat.hl7.org/help/>. All participants are asked to review the [FHIR Code of Conduct](#) before using chat.hl7.org. The [Zulip Code of Conduct](#) describes a more comprehensive set of guidelines for appropriate use of a chat system.

When using Zulip, participants are asked to be mindful of the following guidelines:

## Using Streams

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To subscribe to a stream, use the hidden 'gear' icon next the 'Streams' header on the left of the screen.

If you think there is a need for a new stream, please first propose it on the social stream for discussion (we don't want a proliferation of streams that aren't well differentiated).

## Announcements

All users should be subscribed to the 'Announcements' stream, which lists announcements of general interest to the HL7 community. This stream is intended to have a "low" posting rate. Do not use it for discussions, solicitations or for posts unlikely to be of interest to the entire HL7 community.

## Work Group Streams

A stream will be set up for each HL7 work group that can be used for internal work group discussions. Work groups can assign topics for discussion within these streams.

## Special Interest Streams

Streams on special topics of interest will be defined as appropriate over time. Please check <https://chat.hl7.org/#subscriptions> for a full list of available streams.

## Affiliate/Country/Region based streams

We anticipate Affiliates or communities associated with a specific country or geographic region to define streams over time. These will be open for anyone to follow, but if you are not from the region identified, please do not participate unless you are asked to (or ask politely first).

## Members Only Streams

There are a few members-only streams for governance groups (clearly marked in the stream name) - these are open so that anyone can observe, but only members are allowed to contribute (the members know who they are).

## Targeting Users

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It is appropriate to use @[username] to draw the attention of interested individuals to a thread, though do take care to only do so when you have reason to believe that individual would have an interest in or something to offer the discussion. Since chat is intended to be open, this feature should be used conservatively.

Please avoid the use of @all and @everyone on streams with large numbers of users like Social. Topics of general interest can be posted to the Social stream or, if appropriate, to the Announcements stream. Using @all or @everyone spams everyone's inboxes and should generally only be used by chat administrators who need to proactively notify all registered users.

## Search

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Zulip by default only displays the most current discussions. However, there is a vast searchable history of topics. Before you post, please check if your question has already been answered by using the powerful Zulip search. Key features of Zulip search are listed below.

Operator	Effect
stream:stream	Narrow to messages on stream stream
topic:topic	Narrow to messages with topic topic
sender:me	Narrow to messages sent by you.
is:mentioned	Narrow to messages that mention you.
keyword	Search for keyword in the topic or message content

You can use any combination of these search operators in a single query. For example:

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stream:streamname sender:user@example.com keyword
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would search for messages sent by user@example.com to stream <streamname> containing a <keyword>.

## Rules for Asking

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Please refer to the FHIR [rules for asking questions](#) (which apply also to chat.hl7.org) to optimize your chat interactions and respect the time of your fellow chat participants.