



For Immediate Release

HL7 Contact: Andrea Ribick

(734) 677-7777

andrea@HL7.org

FAST Contact: Melissa Bundy

(404) 245-5240

melissa.bundy@pocp.com

HL7® Launches FAST FHIR® Accelerator to Jumpstart FHIR-Based Interoperability Solutions

Building on public-private work funded by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, the FAST Accelerator will support development of collaborative, FHIR-based solutions for interoperability

Ann Arbor, Mich.— April 28, 2022 — Today, Health Level Seven® International (HL7®) announced that the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's (ONC's) FHIR at Scale Taskforce (*FAST*) will transition into an HL7® FHIR Accelerator.

The *FAST* project was originally founded to identify Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) scalability barriers and define a common set of infrastructure standards for scalable FHIR solutions. As an Accelerator, *FAST* will continue its work under the purview of HL7® with a broad range of stakeholders informing and participating in the initiative.

"As a widely adopted standard supported by many of the most notable stakeholders in the health IT community, FHIR is making rapid, real-world progress toward addressing the biggest challenges of health data interoperability," said HL7 International Chief Executive Officer Charles Jaffe, M.D., Ph.D. "The *FAST* Accelerator will bring us closer to defining a consistent and scalable approach to deploying FHIR across high-value use cases and disseminating these best practices to the industry."

FAST will complement and support the work of HL7's other accelerators. While groups such as Vulcan, the Da Vinci Project, and CodeX develop standards to support specific functional use cases, *FAST* focuses on scalability approaches that implementers can leverage across use cases to simplify deployment and use of FHIR in disparate environments.

In early 2022, *FAST* formed a cross-stakeholder team to begin the transition from an ONC-convened initiative to an HL7® FHIR Accelerator. The team has been working to develop a framework for the accelerator's scope of work, governance principles, and operating and funding models.

"HL7 International has been an exceptional partner and its standards are a key part of what drives interoperability in the U.S. healthcare system. HL7's FHIR standard is stimulating innovation and quickly transforming how data is exchanged between providers, payers, and patients," said Micky Tripathi, Ph.D., national coordinator for health information technology. "Along with the Sequoia Project, we recently published a FHIR Roadmap as part of the implementation of the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA). FHIR Accelerators like *FAST* are poised to play a key role in advancing technical specifications that can be implemented at scale within TEFCA and we look forward to what's to come."

HL7 is currently seeking organizations interested in becoming members of the *FAST* Accelerator. Members will take a leadership role in the interoperability ecosystem by helping to prioritize projects and use cases and drive standard development and implementation. Participants will be able to shape and guide industry-wide efforts to eliminate implementation barriers and support real-time, secure data exchange between stakeholders implementing FHIR APIs.

"The *FAST* Accelerator is an exciting opportunity for technology solution companies, providers, payers, and government entities to innovate around data exchange and find common approaches to implementation problems that we all face," said Deepak Sadagopan, Senior Vice President Value Based Care & Population Health Informatics with Providence. "When everyone sits at the same table, we can make meaningful progress on the lingering barriers that prevent us from maximizing the value of true interoperability. This is the place where we can have those necessary conversations about scaling FHIR in a way that works for everybody."

The *FAST* Accelerator is currently accepting applications for membership. To learn more about the program and how to participate, please contact fast@hl7.org or visit the HL7 *FAST* webpage at <http://www.hl7.org/fast/>.

About Health Level Seven International (HL7)

Health Level Seven® International (HL7) is an ANSI-accredited, not-for-profit standards developing organization with the mission of empowering global health interoperability. With affiliates in over 30 countries, HL7's global membership envisions a world in which everyone can securely access and use the right data when and where they need it. Widely implemented by vendor and healthcare systems, and required by governing bodies around the world, HL7 standards deliver solutions for health information technology, including HL7® Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®), Version 2 (V2) and Clinical Document Architecture (CDA®). For more information, visit HL7.org. www.HL7.org.

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