



## ***For Immediate Release***

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## **HL7® FAST FHIR® Accelerator™ Publishes First Implementation Guides for Security and Exchange**

*These implementation guides provide health care technology implementers with a standard way to approach security of registration, authentication and authorization as well as enabling consistent data exchange with or without intermediaries*

**Ann Arbor, Mich. – December 13, 2022** – Today, the FHIR at Scale Taskforce (FAST) announced the publication of its first two implementation guides (IGs) as an HL7 FHIR Accelerator.

FAST, which transitioned from an ONC-convened initiative to an HL7 FHIR Accelerator in early 2022, works closely with the HL7 FHIR community to identify scalability gaps and support the development of necessary infrastructure for actionable HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) solutions. [Its members include](#) prominent technology companies, health systems, payers, and government agencies.

"FAST is proud to be a part of the vibrant FHIR ecosystem to support the development and implementation of much-needed data standards," said [Duncan Weatherston](#), CEO of Smile Digital Health and co-chair of FAST's Steering Committee. "Our role is to identify and foster common scalability approaches to support the real-world use cases for HL7 FHIR across multiple domains. We are thrilled to further the work of our colleagues and publish these initial IGs around security and intermediary data exchange."

### **[Scalable Security for Registration, Authentication, and Authorization \(STU 1\)](#)**

This IG describes how to extend OAuth 2.0 using Unified Data Access Profiles (UDAP) workflows for both consumer-facing apps that implement the authorization code flow and for business-to-business (B2B) apps that implement the client credentials flow or authorization code flow.

The guide covers topics including automating the client application registration process and increasing security using asymmetric cryptographic keys bound to digital certificates to authenticate ecosystem participants. It also provides grammar for communicating metadata critical to healthcare information exchange.

The work stems from recommendations of ONC's *FAST* Security Tiger Team and has been adapted from IGs previously published by [UDAP.org](http://UDAP.org). The objective of the document is to harmonize workflows for both consumer-facing and B2B applications to facilitate cross-organizational and cross-network interoperability.

### **Hybrid/Intermediary Exchange (STU 1)**

This guide recognizes that the health care ecosystem is a complex one which includes many diverse types of actors including providers, health plans, government agencies, analytics and research, public health, and many others. This ecosystem historically and currently includes intermediaries, such as clearinghouses and health information exchanges (HIE), which broker communication and provide additional value-add services for those actors who choose to use them. This guide addresses the process of integrating intermediary entities into the HL7 FHIR-enabled data exchange environment.

This guide also provides guidance for enabling HL7 FHIR REST interactions across one or more intermediaries using a passive approach, in which the intermediary acts as a "pass through" (e.g., clearinghouses and HIEs), and the requesting actor is not necessarily aware that the request will be routed through an intermediary entity.

Potential applications of this initial IG include the *Da Vinci* value-based care use case, in which intermediaries may bridge connectivity between actors. Other HL7 FHIR accelerators (CARIN, Gravity, etc.) are also developing use cases in which intermediaries may be involved.

### **Continuing to Build FHIR Infrastructure**

In addition to the newly published documents, *FAST* continues to work on other important projects, such as three CMS-supported guides describing the technical architecture considerations related a national healthcare directory.

These guides address challenges including the exchange, query, and attestation and verification of data elements required for a centralized, validated directory system. CMS has also [recently released an RFI](#) to collect feedback from the industry on the best approach to developing such a system. *FAST* will be leading a coordinated team to develop a collaborative response to this RFI.

"We are pleased to see federal agencies like CMS and ONC joining the rest of the industry in taking a keen interest in HL7 FHIR and its possibilities," said [Deepak Sadagopan](#), *FAST* Steering Committee co-chair. "It is critical to incorporate all viewpoints and convene as many stakeholders as possible to inform development of the needed infrastructure for FHIR to be scalable and have a real impact in patient care."

A *FAST* workgroup focused on prioritizing *FAST* projects has gained feedback from its members and other HL7 FHIR Accelerators to help prioritize the work they will take on in the coming year. *FAST* will continuously seek to gain additional insight into the infrastructure needs of HL7 FHIR and invites the community to share perspectives on high-value use cases they would like to see addressed in the future. *FAST* is eager to hear new ideas on how FHIR can support providers, payers, and others as they improve experiences, reduce avoidable spending, and improve outcomes for patients.

To submit a use case related to HL7 FHIR infrastructure, [please click here](#).

### **About FAST**

*FAST* was launched in late 2017 in response to an industry-recognized need to address shared FHIR scalability challenges. While other HL7 Accelerators and workgroups are focused on developing critical functional use cases, *FAST* focuses on infrastructure to enable the adoption of these functional use cases in a scalable way. Rather than individually addressing challenges such

as endpoint discovery, identity management/patient matching, and secure authentication and authorization, other HL7 Accelerators and workgroups can leverage the work of FAST to support their use cases. To learn more about the program and how to participate, please 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](http://www.HL7.org).

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