

# **The Argonaut Project: Project Charter**

December 4, 2014

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## **Introduction**

A group of highly motivated health information technology vendors and health care organizations have come together to sponsor a focused effort to accelerate development of a FHIR API and Core Data Services specification under the auspices of HL7. The joint project is being launched by the following Sponsors:

- athenahealth
- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Cerner
- Epic
- Intermountain Health
- Mayo Clinic
- McKesson
- MEDITECH
- Partners Healthcare System
- SMART at Boston Children's Hospital Informatics Program
- The Advisory Board Company

Whereas, HL7 is currently overseeing development of FHIR standards and profiles; and

Whereas, the Sponsors wish to enter into a joint project to accelerate nationwide health information sharing based on an Internet-based open architecture; and

Whereas, the Sponsors wish to provide funding and resources to accelerate and focus HL7's development of FHIR standards and profiles and wish to authorize that organization to perform certain functions related to development of specific FHIR resource and profile specifications and implementation guides; and

Whereas, the Sponsors have selected Martin, Blanck, and Associates to serve as a Security Risk Assessment Contractor for the joint project and wish to authorize that organization to perform certain functions related to OAuth 2.0 and Open ID Connect implementation guides and security validation.

Whereas, the Parties have selected the Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative to serve as the Project Manager to the joint project wish to authorize that organization to perform certain functions related to overall management and coordination; and

Now, therefore, the parties agree as follows:

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Argonaut Project is to rapidly develop a first-generation FHIR-based API and Core Data Services specification to enable expanded information sharing for electronic health records and other health information technology based on Internet standards and architectural patterns and styles. This effort follows on recommendations from the Joint HIT Standards and Policy Committee's JASON Task Force Report, the HIT Standards Committee's Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN) Power Team, the MITRE JASON Reports of 2013 and 2014, and the 2010 PCAST Report.

There is already ongoing FHIR development work being undertaken by a variety of organizations and initiatives, such as HL7, IHE, and the S&I Framework (Data Access Framework). The aim of the Argonaut Project is not to displace any of these activities but rather to leverage the learnings from these efforts to

rapidly develop highly focused FHIR Profiles and a complementary security implementation guide to make available to the industry in the spring of 2015.

This acceleration project is an evolutionary step that will advance industry progress to the next level of interoperability. It is important to recognize that rapid acceleration of standards development does not equate to rapid adoption of standards. Indeed, hasty release of immature and untested standards can have the opposite effect. We will thus adopt a measured approach that builds on important standards work already being undertaken but gets it to market sooner than would otherwise be the case.

HL7 is currently working on bringing to ballot a general FHIR DSTU R2 standard in May 2015 that will systematically map FHIR to CCDA at the data-element level. The Argonaut Project will support this critical work and further the effort by developing a focused US Realm Implementation Guide mapped to the Common Meaningful Use Data Set and an accompanying Security Implementation Guide. This will allow interested vendors and providers to develop and implement a focused but complete FHIR API specification beginning in the spring of 2015. Following a year of market experimentation and feedback, this would lay the path for HL7 to ballot a normative FHIR API standard in 2016.

The health care delivery and health care information technology markets are rapidly evolving, and so too will the balance of public versus private roles in driving interoperability. Ultimately, we hope that successful and rapid adoption would preclude the need for further federal government intervention in interoperability standards. We also believe that a premature certification requirement might have an adverse effect on the development and adoption of this important work.

FHIR-based standards are not mature enough for inclusion in 2015 Edition Certification. In the event that a FHIR-based API does get included in federal certification, we would recommend the following glide path, which would be consistent with the timeline outlined above and would enable ONC to seamlessly adopt a market-based and market-tested standard.

- 2015 Edition Certification: Include in Preamble, reference to the FHIR Data Query and Document Query Profiles, Resource Definitions, and Security Implementation Guides, with indication that these will be included in 2016 Edition Certification
- MU Stage 3 2015 CEHRT: Include in Preamble, reference to the FHIR Data Query and Document Query Profiles and Security Implementation Guides, with indication that these will be included in 2016 Edition CEHRT
- Future Certification: Include as per recommendation of HITSC based on standards maturity model
- Future CEHRT: Include as per recommendation of HITSC based on standards maturity model

## Scope

The scope will be to deliver, by May 2015, US Realm Implementation Guides mapped to FHIR DSTU 2 Profiles for the following:

- FHIR Data Query Profiles. A set of FHIR Resources and accompanying profiles that enables query/response of the discrete data elements contained in the Common Meaningful Use Data Set
- FHIR Document Query Profile. A FHIR resource and profile that enables query/response of IHE X\* metadata resources, and specifically, transition of care and patient summary CCDAs

In addition, the effort will produce an accompanying Security Implementation Guide to complement the FHIR Data Query and Document Query Profiles.

- Security Implementation Guide. Based on the SMART OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect profiles

The FHIR Data Query Profile and FHIR Document Query Profile and accompanying Implementation Guides will be developed by HL7 for inclusion as an informative ballot mapped to the general FHIR DSTU R2 being developed in parallel. The Security Implementation Guide will eventually be incorporated in the HL7 balloting process but for this project will be developed in parallel to accompany the FHIR Data Query and Document Query Profiles and Implementation Guides.

The FHIR Data Profile will focus on the Common Meaningful Use Data Set<sup>1</sup>:

TABLE 2—COMMON MU DATA SET

1. Patient name	2. Sex.
3. Date of birth	4. Race.
5. Ethnicity	6. Preferred language.
7. Smoking status	8. Problems.
9. Medications	10. Medication allergies.
11. Laboratory test(s)	12. Laboratory value(s)/result(s).
13. Vital signs (height, weight, BP, BMI)	14. Care plan field(s), including goals and instructions.
15. Procedures	16. Care team members.

The vocabulary standards for these elements will be drawn from the Data Access Framework Data Elements definitions of June 2, 2014 (v0.5)<sup>2</sup>. The list of data elements and associated vocabulary standards will be supplemented during the project as needed.

The FHIR Document Profile will map to IHE X\* metadata resources, and specifically, transition of care and patient summary CCDAs.

The Security Implementation Guide will be based on the SMART implementation of OAuth 2.0 and Open ID Connect that enforces the security fabric between a user initiating a query and a user responding to the query.

## Roles and Responsibilities

A Project Argonaut Committee will be convened to provide high-level review and input to the effort. The FHIR Profile effort will be managed by HL7 and will leverage HL7's existing committees and working groups. The Security Implementation Guide team will be headed by Martin, Blanck and Associates (Dixie Baker) and will work directly with the Project Argonaut Committee. The Project Argonaut Committee will provide ongoing guidance on coordination of the FHIR Profile and Security activities.

Sponsors will nominate a representative for the Argonaut Committee, provide technical resources and subject matter experts for input and to review project artifacts and deliverables. Sponsors also agree to participate in and recruit for pilot implementations to the extent feasible.

MAeHC (Micky Tripathi) will provide project management resources to the project overall, and to HL7 and to the Security Implementation Guide teams. Such project management services will include:

<sup>1</sup> See page 54170 of: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-09-04/pdf/2012-20982.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://siframework.us4.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=b2d816b0f651c7c47d0722c23&id=47f3759ef1&e=d4f42db4da>

organizing and staffing monthly Project Argonaut Committee meetings; tracking milestones and deliverables of the FHIR Profile and Security IG teams; assisting the FHIR Profile and Security IG teams with project management, feedback from connectathons and other market activities, working with Sponsors to recruit providers for pilots, testing, and connectathons; maintaining coordination between FHIR Profile and Security IG teams; editing and production support of intermediate and final deliverables and artifacts, internal and external communications.

## Deliverables, and Timeline

The high-level milestones of the project are as follows. Dates will be adjusted as the project progresses:

Team	Activity	Completion Date
Argonaut Committee	Charter Acceptance by HL7 and Project Sponsors	December 5, 2014
Argonaut Committee	Martin, Blanck and MAeHC Contracts	Week December 8, 2014
Argonaut Committee	Project Argonaut Committee Kickoff	Week of December 15, 2014
Argonaut Committee	Press announcement	Week of December 8, 2014
Argonaut Committee	Define use cases to be addressed (based on Security IG Team input)	Week of December 15, 2014
Argonaut Committee	In-Person Meeting	TBD
Argonaut Committee	HIMSS Conference	Mid-April 2015
Security IG Team	Agree on documentation requirements	Week of December 8, 2014
Security IG Team	Security Implementation Guide Team Kickoff -- agree on scope, requirements, milestones, deliverables, timelines	Week of December 15, 2014
Security IG Team	Complete review of SMART and other applicable implementation guides	February 1, 2015
Security IG Team	Complete draft update of SMART implementation guide	March 1, 2015
Security IG Team	Complete review and update of SMART implementation guide	April 1, 2015
HL7 FHIR Profiles Team	FHIR Data Query Profile -- For Comment Draft for January Connectathon	Week of December 8, 2014
HL7 FHIR Profiles Team	Proposal on Data and Document Profile requirements	Week of December 8, 2014
HL7 FHIR Profiles Team	FHIR Data Query Profile -- January Connectathon	January 17, 2015
HL7 FHIR Profiles Team	FHIR Data Query and Document Query Profiles and Implementation Guides available to HL7 community	Mid-March 2015

HL7 FHIR Profiles Team	FHIR Data and Document Query Profiles and Implementation Guides included in informative ballots	Mid-April 2015
Further milestones		TBD

In order to execute the program, we expect the following meeting frequency of the Project Argonaut Committee and Teams:

Month	Argonaut Committee	FHIR Data Query and Document Query Team	Security IG Team
December 2014	One 2-hour meeting	Two 2-hour meetings	Two 2-hour meetings
January 2015	One 2-hour meeting	Two 2-hour meetings	Two 2-hour meetings
February 2015	One 2-hour meeting	Two 2-hour meetings	Two 2-hour meetings
March 2015	One 2-hour meeting	Two 2-hour meetings	Two 2-hour meetings
April 2015	One 2-hour meeting	Two 2-hour meetings	Two 2-hour meetings
Total	5 meetings (10 hours)	10 meetings (20 hours)	10 meetings (20 hours)

### **Proprietary Information**

Each of the Parties agrees that it will not use technology or background technology or other proprietary information of another Party except for the purposes of this joint project, during the project time period or at any time after its termination.

### **Intellectual Property**

Each of the Parties agrees that specifications and artifacts developed during the course of the project will be made available to the community via an Open Content License.

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