

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Health Information Standards Organisation (HISO) and HL7 New Zealand (HL7NZ). Established in November 2020, this MOU is renewed for a second year until 31 December 2022.

The MOU exists to recognise the respective roles of HISO and HL7NZ and the ways we can work together to use standards for the good of interoperability in the New Zealand health and disability system, and to play our part in the international standards community.

The MOU is non-confidential and can be shared publicly.



A function of the Ministry of Health with a sector-representative committee, HISO is the kaitiaki or steward and guardian of data and digital standards for our health and disability system. HISO governs the selection, development, publication and adoption of value-adding standards for interoperability that have national effect for district health boards, primary health organisations, health care providers and their industry partners.

HISO publishes standards, endorsements and adoption roadmaps, supported by online tools and materials. HISO publishes an interoperability roadmap to accelerate the shift to a fully interoperable digital health ecosystem.

Interoperability

The Global Digital Health Partnership defines interoperability as the ability to transfer meaning of information within and between systems and products without special effort by the user.

HL7 New Zealand is the New Zealand Affiliate of Health Level Seven International, the global developer of standards for the interoperability of health information technology with members in over 55 countries. HL7NZ is a not for profit incorporated society focused on current and emerging HL7 standards, with strong relationships to all other related healthcare IT standards used in New Zealand.

Interoperability ensures that health information can be accessed by patients and consumers, health workers, carers and whānau anywhere, anytime and anyhow. The quality of interoperability extends to interconnected products, services and workflows that create a better user experience.

As an ecosystem enabler within the Digital Health Strategic Framework, interoperability is essential to a data-driven, digitally-enabled and equitable health and disability system and pae ora – healthy futures – for all New Zealanders.

Agreement

The two parties agree to work together in broad terms to advance interoperability in the New Zealand health and disability system and to play our part internationally.

We will meet at least annually to determine matters of common interest and to maintain a joint plan of activity.

The FHIR R4 International Patient Summary (IPS) Implementation Guide will continue to be a focus. We will co-govern the NZ FHIR Registry.

Every year we will co-host at least one event for our standards community. Suitable events include seminars, developer days, education boot camps and hackathons. We will each bring our own resources to joint activities and share costs, unless otherwise arranged.

On relevant matters, we will invite each other to our respective meetings and share meeting papers and minutes.

HISO will invite representation from HL7NZ on projects with a significant HL7 Standards® component. Working group members will be compensated according to the HISO committee fees framework. With mutual agreement, HISO publications with a significant HL7 Standards® component may be co-branded with HL7NZ.

HISO has sole regulatory responsibility for determining the data and digital standards that are to have mandatory national effect across the health and disability system.

We will support each other in efforts to increase the number of HL7 FHIR® certified developers.



01 October 2021

Alastair Kenworthy
HISO Chair



01 October 2021

Peter Jordan
HL7 New Zealand Chair