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|  | **Kia ora tātou** These regular pānui aim to keep everyone with an interest in the [Hira Programme](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.tewhatuora.govt.nz%2Four-health-system%2Fdigital-health%2Fhira-connecting-health-information%2F&data=05%7C02%7CLiz.Price%40TeWhatuOra.govt.nz%7C3830bc0904454eeb19c008dc38d0d87b%7Cbed4da513cdb4d0dbaf8fb80d53268e3%7C0%7C0%7C638447716867725688%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=d4y2OofABIXl096Bz7v3z267DMWzOeZ3cLOluGWe%2FIE%3D&reserved=0) up-to-date on our latest programme activities. This includes healthcare consumers, whānau and communities, health professionals and providers, digital health suppliers, and others with an interest in digital health. Thank you to the many groups and individuals who are so generous with their time, support, and advice as we continue towards our goal of empowering people to see, manage, and contribute to their health and wellbeing information. Ngā mihi nui Gerard KeenanDirector Hira Programme and Technology Enablers  |

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| What we are delivering |

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| March 2024 ‘Ring of FHIR’ ConnectathonA Connectathon being run by Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora, HISO and HL7NZ in Auckland from 20-22 March 2024 is now fully subscribed. The Connectathon will run in parallel to a companion event in Australia. The March event follows the success of the “IPS-athon”, focused on the International Patient Summary (IPS), at Digital Health Week 2023. The Connectathon will continue work on adapting the IPS to our unique cultural and health system settings to build a New Zealand Patient Summary (NZPS) that enables consumers to tell their health story in digital form and vastly improves continuity of care. The event will take place in two parts. * **Symposium, 20 March:** Digital health leaders in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific will share the importance of standardisation with FHIR®, SNOMED and IPS to the digital health ecosystem we’re building. Our experts will explore models for increased collaboration across the region and focus on improved health equity through digital transformation.
* **Connectathon, 21-22 March:** Participants will choose from several topic-focused tracks – either to further develop and prove the NZPS FHIR specification, develop product integrations with our marketplace APIs or develop interactive applications with FHIR questionnaires. There is also an education track that will explore the FHIR NZ Base.

The Connectathon is for health software developers, service designers, clinicians and anyone interested in the digitalisation of our health system. Expert track leads will help guide each participant to the tracks that match their professional interests and skill level. A review of the Connectathon will feature in the next issue of the Hira Programme Update. Future Connectathons are also being planned, and details will be available over coming months. |

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| Progress updates* The first iteration of **My Health Record** was launched on 6 December 2023. A secure website giving people access to their immunisation records, My Health Record is enabled by the interoperability being put in place by the Hira Programme. My Health Record is the first step to giving New Zealanders access their own health information online. Over time, more information will be available, such as current and past medications, lab results, and community services and high use card entitlements.
* **Adult-to-adult delegated representative function for My Health Account** is coming soon for integration with apps. This function allows an approved delegate to access another person’s account, with additional capabilities to support and manage multiple users sharing the same device on their own identity credentials.
* **Digital identity services** ensure people wanting access to health information via APIs are correctly identified before the relevant information is made available. In the last quarter, these additional identity services are now being used in 15 apps, including My Health Record (access to immunisation information), the Pacific Health Scholarship programme, and Tātai iwi affiliation data collection.
* The **NZ Health Terminology Service** (NZHTS) continues to extend its list of code systems and value sets, with over 40 companies now using the service.
* **Healthcare** **consumer and whānau research** on My Story, and My Health Record user experience designs has begun in Rotorua, with further workshops in the South Island in February.
* **Te Manawa Taki pilot activities** have begun, with a focus on agreeing the approach and plan for community connectors, pilot on additional ways of establishing identity, and additional data sources. Community connectors work directly with all communities, encouraging and supporting involvement in Hira, from healthcare consumers, local Māori and iwi-based IT vendors, and healthcare providers.
* The pilot to test the **National Event Management Service** was successfully completed in December and the team is working towards moving into production in March, notifying subscribers of death events. It will be available to the wider health sector, subject to usual onboarding requirements. From April 2024 it is planned to extend to topics other than death events, and onboard new subscribers to the death event.

Ultimately, the service will let healthcare providers know when information relating to a patient has changed (such as their address) or when they have had an interaction with the healthcare system (for example, they have been seen at an emergency department). The notifications are IT system to IT system. |

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|   | Survey to help understand FHIR training needsMany thanks to those who completed the recent survey from Health New Zealand and HL7 New Zealand, to help us understand sector FHIR training needs. FHIR is a health interoperability standard for digital interfaces that supports easy and meaningful exchange of health data. Hira will enable health information to be securely accessed through FHIR APIs, so using and understanding FHIR is essential for digital health industry partners interacting with Hira. We had 110 responses, including some detailed comments, providing very useful insights into training needs. Findings included:* 74 percent of respondents said they already used FHIR products (from 83 responses).
* 82 percent of respondents said they would be consuming or developing FHIR services in the next 18 months (from 84 responses).
* Of the 82 respondents who answered the question about experience with FHIR development:
* 17 percent said they had no experience
* 26 precent said they were beginners
* 30 percent said they had some experience
* 22 percent said they had significant experience
* 5 percent said they were experts.
* 68 percent said they thought it was very important or extremely important that FHIR training was customised to address New Zealand-specific use cases and healthcare needs (from 74 responses).

It was great to see people are invested in the FHIR health interoperability standard and support making FHIR a true success for New Zealand. The next steps are to review the responses in more detail and develop a training plan. |   |
|   | API technical standards community establishedA technical standards community has been set up to provide feedback on application programming interface (API) standards drafted by Health New Zealand. Feedback is very important when technical standards are developed, to ensure they are fit for purpose and easy to understand. By listening and being open to different opinions and viewpoints, we can foster a rich and inclusive community that thrives through shared knowledge and collaboration. Following review, HISO (Health Information Standards Organisation) endorsement is sought, and the technical standard is published. To date, two technical standards have been made available to review: * API Design and Development (FHIR and non FHIR)
* API Security.

These standards are a guide to the level of technical standards needed to provide and deploy a modern API service. They are intended to be the baseline for the sector to use to provide a more consistent and reliable approach that health information services are delivered through. Feedback received to date has been either minor or clarifications, with no significant change suggested, which indicates we’re on the right track. If you want to be part of the technical standards community, please contact David Moon: David.Moon@tewhatuora.govt.nz. |   |
|   | New Zealand Patient SummaryThe suggested composition of the NZ Patient Summary is shown above. It is a New Zealand adaption of the IPS (International Patient Summary) with extensions that reflect our local nuances and cultural needs. By mid-2024, it is planned to have the New Zealand patient summary (based on the HISO International Patient Summary) available to healthcare consumers and healthcare providers via My Health Record. The NZ Patient Summary will enable access to some essential health information, including: * demographics
* community dispensed medicines
* vaccination status
* entitlements (initially Community Services Card and High Use Health Card)
* laboratory results (initially COVID-19)
* other data, for example, allergies and conditions.

 Additional datasets will be added over time, as we work towards delivering a personal health record. |   |
|   | Questions or commentsWe welcome your feedback, input and questions – please email us on contact@hira.health.nz. Please also let us know if you would like to be added to the list of subscribers who are alerted when these monthly updates are published. |   |