



Advancing Interoperability for the Public Good

Data Usability Work Group
Public Comment Webinar
August 30, 2022

Agenda

- The Sequoia Project Overview and Timeline
 - How Members Support the Mission
- Introduction to Interoperability Matters Workgroups
 - Process
- Data Usability Workgroup Overview
 - Roadmap
 - Membership
 - Website, Meetings, Workgroup Logistics and Overview of Phases
 - Phase 3 Begins: [Press Release](#) for the publication of the Draft IG was sent out August 29, 2022



Adam Davis, MD, Co-chair
Sutter Health



Bill Gregg, MD, Co-chair
HCA Healthcare



Didi Davis, VP
The Sequoia Project

The Sequoia Project's Role

The Sequoia Project is a trusted, independent advocate for nationwide health information exchange.

Supports multiple independent initiatives, each with their own mission, governance, membership and structure.



SECURE



INTEROPERABLE



NATIONWIDE

The Sequoia Project Overview and Timeline

Evolution of The Sequoia Project

2012

Sequoia Formed
(Operated as
Healthway, Inc.)

Steward for
eHealth
Exchange
network formerly
known as the
NHIN/NwHIN

2014

Rebranded to
The Sequoia
Project

Launched
Carequality

2018

Corporate
Restructure
Transition to
Three Operating
Entities

PULSE

RSNA Image
Share

Interoperability
Matters Launches

2019

Launched
Info Blocking
Compliance
Work Group

Selected as
ONC TEFCA
RCE

2020-22

Expanded
Portfolio

Information
Blocking

Emergency
Preparedness

Data Usability



From Incubation to Independent Organization

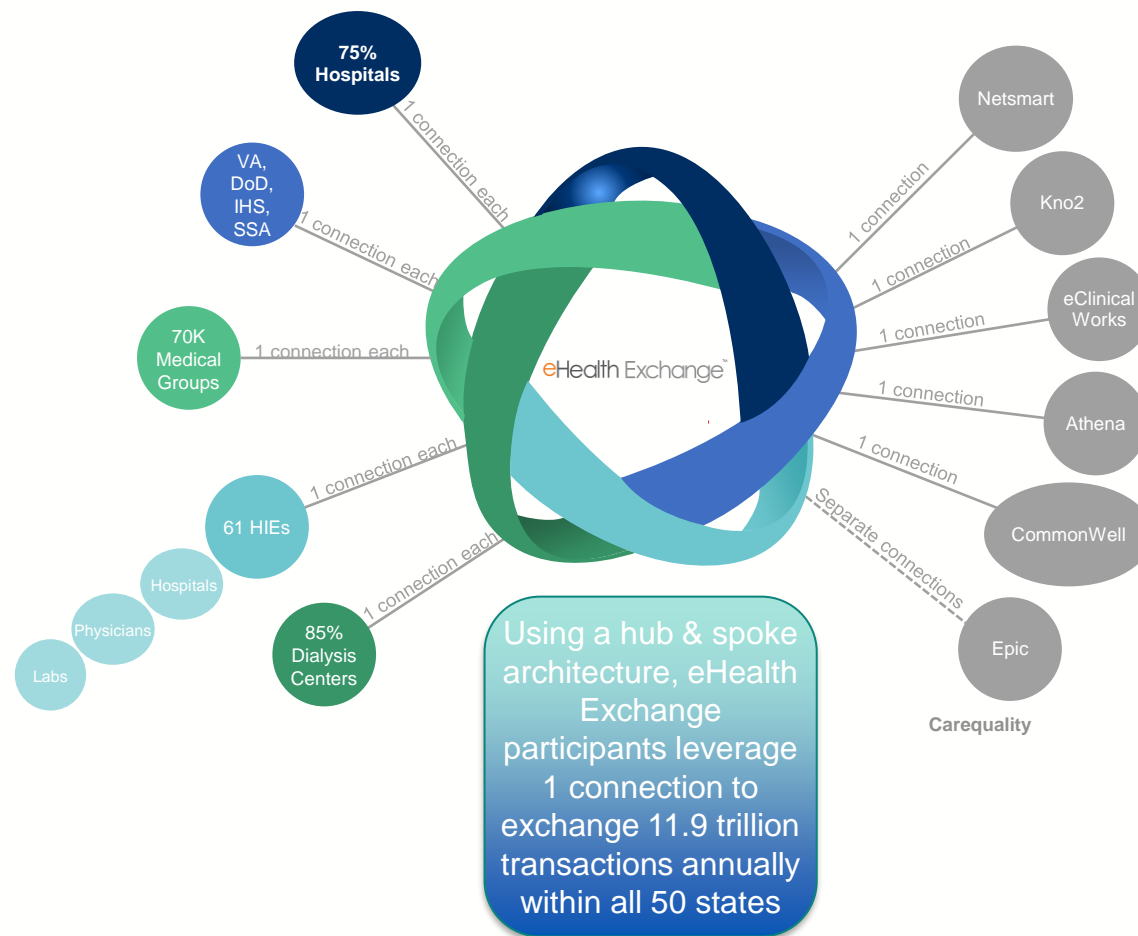
 eHealth Exchange™

eHealth Exchange
operates a nationwide
public-private health
information network

 carequality

Carequality operates a
nationwide interoperability
framework to interconnect
health information
networks

One Connection Exchanges with 95%* Hospitals



Type of information shared:

- Clinical documents
- Immunization data
- Electronic case reports
- Radiology Imaging

Purposes for which information shared:

- Treatment
- Care coordination
- Closed loop referrals
- Disability benefits determination
- Public health



Current Sequoia Project Initiatives



RSNA Image Share
Validation Program is an
interoperability testing
program to enable seamless
sharing of medical images



Interoperability Matters is a
public-private interoperability
leadership forum engaging
stakeholders through
membership and via public
forums

Our Latest Development

*“[T]he National Coordinator shall convene appropriate public and private stakeholders to **develop or support a trusted exchange framework** for trust policies and practices and for a **common agreement** for exchange between health information networks.” [emphasis added]*



ANNOUNCING
**ONC Selects The
Sequoia Project as RCE
for TEFCA**

Sequoia was selected as the Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE) to work with the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) to implement the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA)

<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org>

Example Building Blocks for Interoperability

- Digitized health records with usable and quality data
- Standards implemented in health IT systems
- Systems tested and verified to have implemented standards consistently
- Consistent methods for managing patient identities
- Common infrastructure which enables partners to exchange information (e.g. directories)
- Common set of binding expectations for trusted exchange, policy, technical, legal agreements, governance

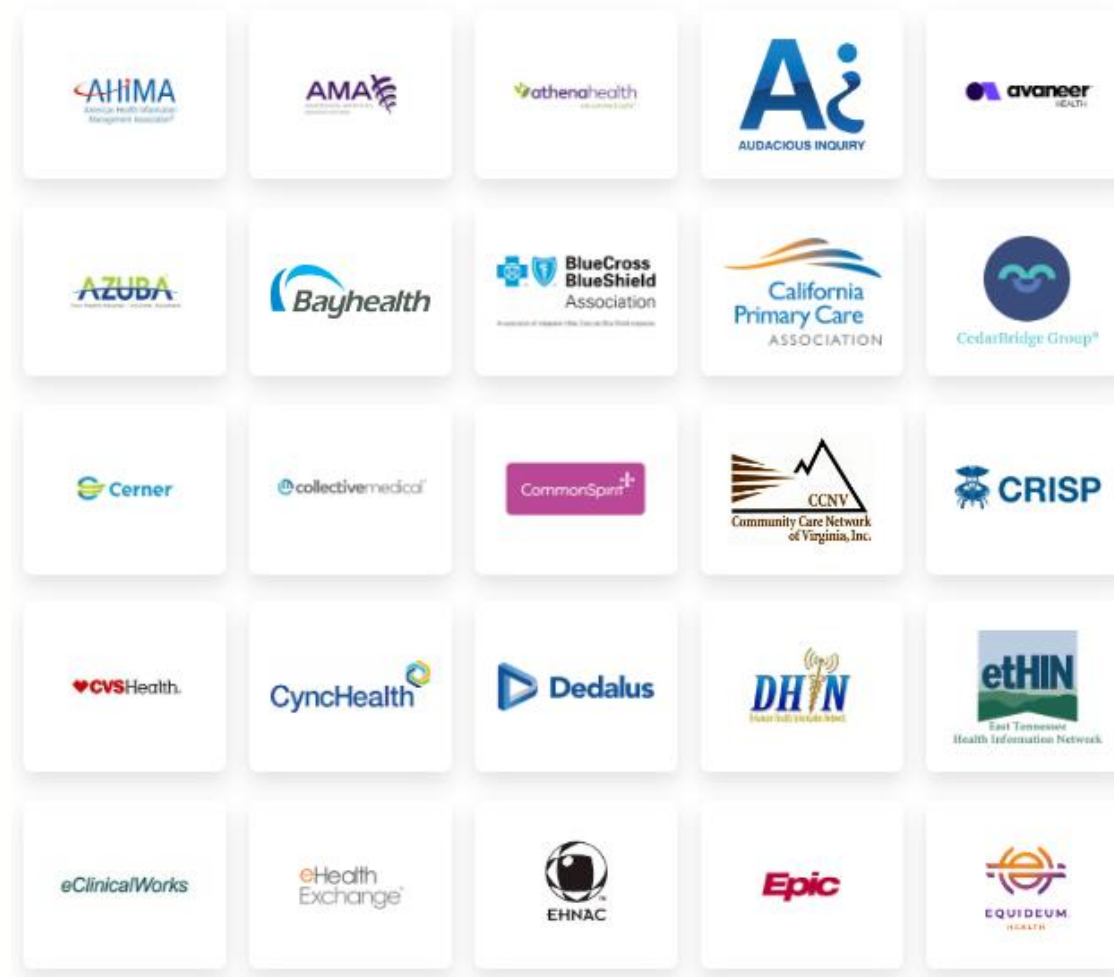
How Members Support the Mission

- Found Sequoia as non-profit operating for the public good
- Steer the company's strategic direction
- Identify and prioritize industry-wise challenges role in Interoperability Matters
- Prioritize new Interoperability Matters projects
- Provide leadership on Sequoia board

Sampling of members-led activities:

- Improving Interoperability of C-CDA and Content Testing
- Improving Patient Matching
- Information Blocking Compliance Guidance
- Prioritizing future issues to be addressed by Interoperability Matters process
- **Learn more about our initiatives**
- **Learn more about our members**

Sequoia Member's Shape Interoperability for the Public Good



Members Continued



Members Continued



- CA Emergency Medical Services Association
- Cureous Innovations
- Hawaii HIE
- Health InfoNet
- Imprado
- Innovaccer
- Lyniate
- Mayo Clinic
- Mednition
- NJII
- Parker Health
- Virginia HIE

Introduction to Interoperability Matters Workgroups



A Public-Private Cooperative Solving Discrete Health Information Exchange Challenges

Interoperability Matters Workgroups

Information Blocking
Compliance Workgroup

[LEARN MORE](#)

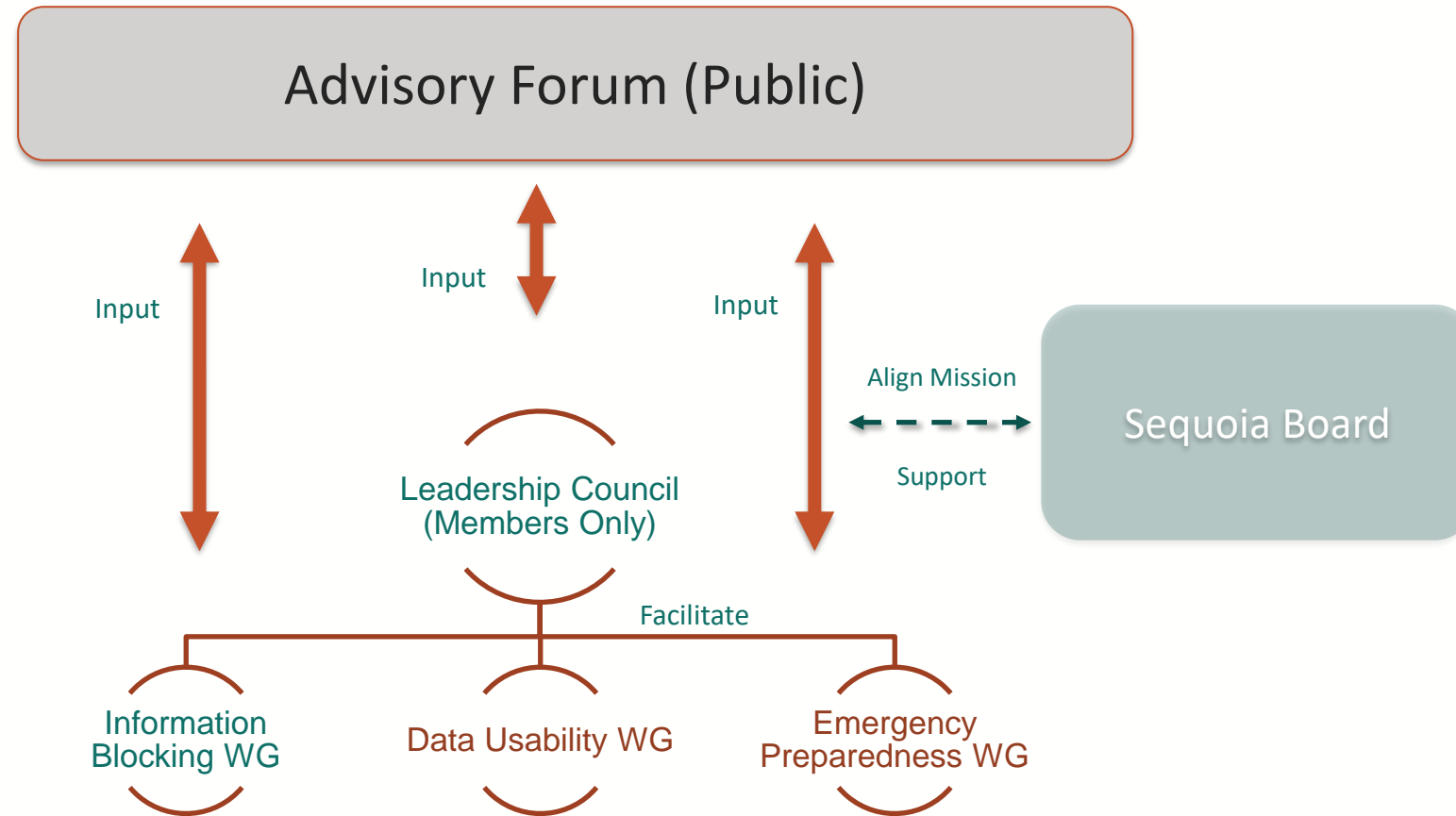
Data Usability
Workgroup

[LEARN MORE](#)

Emergency Preparedness
Information Workgroup

[LEARN MORE](#)

Interoperability Matters Structure



Key Drivers for Interoperability



Need for
usable data



Value case to
participate



Imperative to
exchange

Data Usability Workgroup Overview

Interoperability Matters Process



Identify



Prioritize



Solve

Workgroup Members

223 Organizations

351 Participants



Healthcare Providers



Public Health



Consumer/Patient



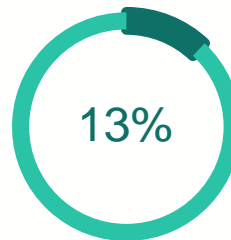
Standards Developer



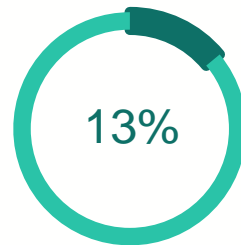
Health Plan/Payer



Federal, State, Local Government



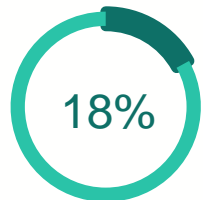
HIN/HIEs



Other



Health IT Developers



Phase 1: Administration and Prioritization

Phase 2: Developing Initial Draft

Phase 3: Public Comment Period/ Recommended Next Steps

Phase 4: Finalizing Implementation Guide

223
Organizations
351
Participants



October 2020

Workgroup launches

Open call for participation

Priority work items discussed
for scoping on Draft
Implementation Guide

Input on data usability pain
points received, categorized,
and prioritized

March 2021

Workgroup votes on
priority work items

April 2021

Begin writing Draft
Implementation Guide

June 2021

Clinician Workshop gathers
feedback from additional vendors
and workgroup members

August 30, 2022

Draft Implementation
Guide published

August 30, 2022

45-Day public comment
period begins

Sequoia Project works with
industry partners and leaders to
encourage and solicit feedback

October 14, 2022

Public comments due

December 14, 2022

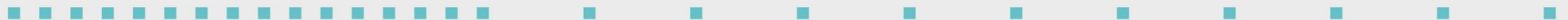
The Sequoia Project Annual
Member Meeting

Implementation Guide published

Continues through January 2023

Industry vendor call to action
for commitment to implement
guidance

Iterate for future versions of Implementation Guide



Weekly Meetings

January 2022

Monthly Meetings

Website, Meeting and Workgroup Logistics

- Register for the Workgroup
- Calendar Downloads
- Meeting Notes



Meeting Materials and Recordings

Phase 2

September 9: Meeting Notes	+
August 26: Meeting Notes	+
August 12: Meeting Notes	+
July 8: Meeting Notes	+
June 10: Meeting Notes	+
May 13: Meeting Notes	+
Apr 8: Meeting Notes	+
Apr 1: Meeting Notes	+
Apr 15: Meeting Notes	+

Phase 1

Mar 25: Meeting Notes	+
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Four Work Phases

The Interoperability Matters **Leadership Council** chartered the Data Usability Workgroup to work in the following phases:

PHASE 1
Administration and Prioritization
October 2020-March 2021
[View Meeting Notes](#)

PHASE 2
Developing Initial Drafts (current)
April 2021-Q1 2022
[View Meeting Notes](#)

PHASE 3
Public Comment Period/ Recommended Next Steps
TBD, based on end of Phase 2-60 days after start

PHASE 4
Finalizing Implementation Guides
[TBD, based on end of Phase 3]-13 months after start

<https://sequoiaproject.org/interoperability-matters/data-usability-workgroup/>



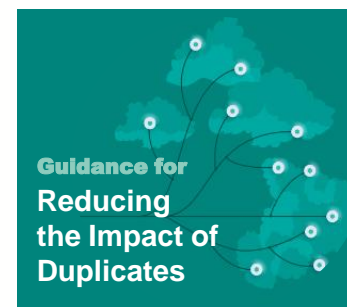
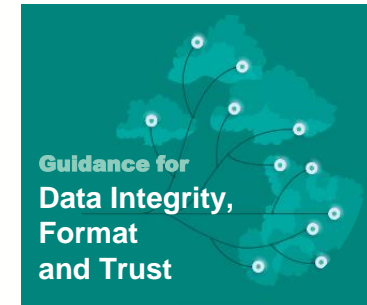
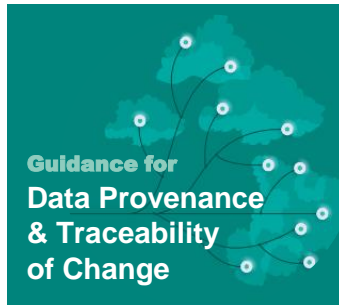
Interopmatters@sequoiaproject.org

Phase 2 Implementation Guide Development Process

- Co-chairs and staff organized and gathered the content for the 8 topic areas developed in phase 1 activities
- Topics were addressed in priority order
 - Staff reviewed existing industry guidance from Carequality/Commonwell, CDC, HL7, LOINC, NLM, ONC, and other industry groups
 - Integrated feedback from workgroup members, workshop(s), vendor discussions and Interoperability Matters Advisory and Leadership Councils to the draft IG
 - Reviewed feedback from the Data Usability Collaboration space / forum
 - <https://sequoiaproject.org/interoperability-matters/data-usability-workgroup/>
 - Updated the Draft IG for each topic category and use case
 - All workgroup comments were accepted to the draft IG through August 19, 2022

Table of Contents

- Executive Summary & Phases Timeline
 - Phase 1 - Administration & Prioritization
 - Phase 2 - IG Development
 - Phase 3 - IG Public Comment
 - Phase 4 - IG Publication
- Statement of Intent
- Sections/Chapters
 - Six Topic Categories
 - Guidance with SHALL, SHOULD, MAY
- References
- Appendix A – High Priority Lab Results

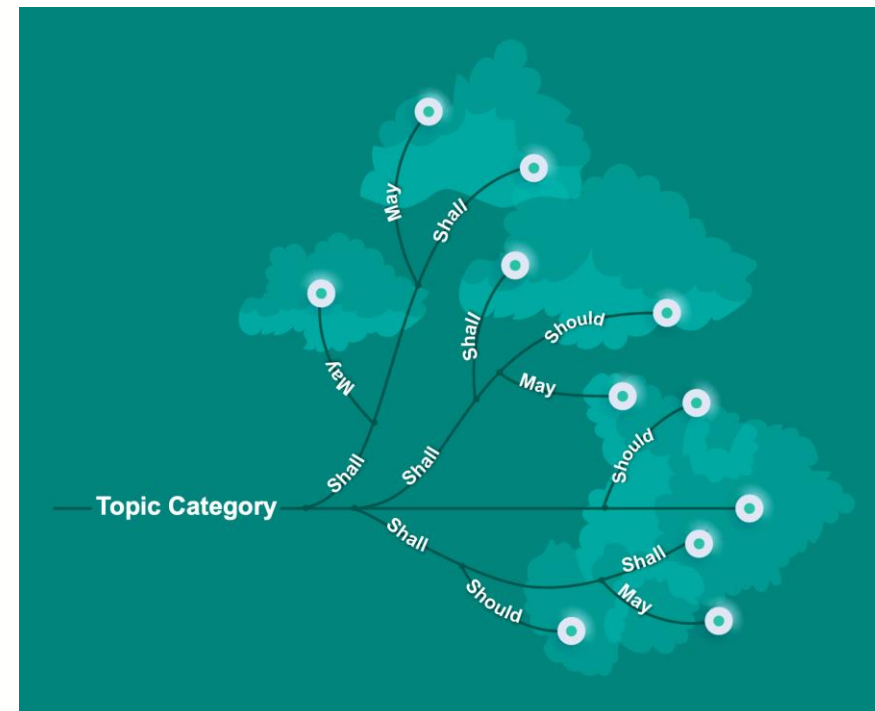


Use Cases

- Provider-to-provider health information exchange
- Provider-to-public health agency information exchange
- Healthcare entity-to-consumer information exchange

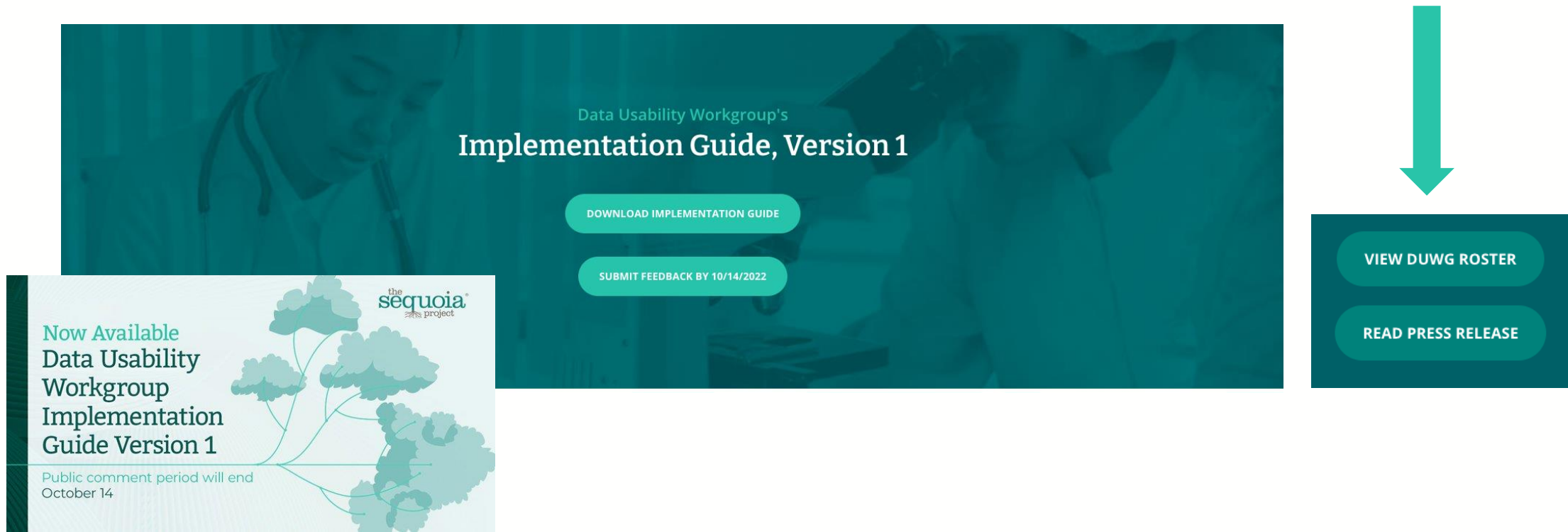
Section / Chapter Structure

- Problem statement
- Use Cases
- Existing Published Work
- Guidance
- Future Efforts



Phase 3: Public Comment Website Navigation

- The [Implementation Guide was published](#) August 29, 2022 for **45 day** public comment period **ending October 14, 2022**
- The Implementation Guide and Comment form can be found [here](#)
- At the top of this page you will find two buttons
 - Download the Implement Guide PDF using the first button
 - The second button takes you to the Sequoia form Tool used to Submit Feedback by October 14, 2022
- Scroll past the Executive Summary to find the [workgroup roster](#) of members and [press release](#) issued August 29, 2022



- Comments **require** a **name** and **email** reference
- When ready to comment you will need to do the following:
 - Page # and Line # for comments in the appropriate section on the form (line numbers are included in the published IG)
 - There is a comment box for each section 1-6
 - General comments not specific to one topic category should be included in the Additional Feedback section of the form with page & line #s
 - Don't forget to Click Submit!

SUBMIT

- 5

10

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Phase 3: Public Comment Links

- Multiple forms may be submitted from one person and/or organization until October 14, 2022
- Sequoia will be reaching out to socialize with industry partners through the comment period
- Share with your colleagues – comments are welcome from all and encouraged
 - [Press Release Issued August 29, 2022](#)
 - [Implementation Guide](#)
 - [Comment Form](#)
 - [Workgroup Roster](#)
 - [Join the Workgroup](#)



Phase 3: Public Comment Process Example

- 1.4.3. A sending system SHALL include provenance information, when available, at the entry level for allergies, immunizations, and problems as specified by USCDI v1 or the most current version when a companion guide specification is published by HL7. This information SHALL include author organization and time stamp.
- 5 1.4.4. Sharing Author Person for USCDI Data
- 1.4.4.1. The Data Usability workgroup endorses the elevation of author person from a Level 2 data element to full USCDI inclusion.
- 10 1.4.4.2. Prior to that change, provenance entries SHOULD include the author person for a data item when known. While author person is not required by USCDI it provides valuable context for receivers on where the data originated. The HL7 implementation guide linked in section 1.3 includes guidance for how to share author person.
- 15 **1.5. Future Efforts**
- 1.5.1. [JDCWG C-CDA Whitepaper](#)
- 20 1.5.1.1. As Appendix A highlights, this workgroup whitepaper deliverables will build upon the reference to USCDI (most current version) in this original guide to document testable guidance for future implementers
- 1.5.2. [Guidance for Data Provenance](#)
- 25 1.5.2.1. Additional data elements and staged requirements over time using SHALL, SHOULD, MAY will be considered. It is expected this will be aligned with the USCDI future versions as ONC releases these.
- 30 1.5.2.2. Additional attributes will be considered such as Medication Prescriber information and others.
- 1.5.2.3. Guidance beyond HL7 C-CDA to include HL7 FHIR will be added to align with HL7 mapping [work currently underway](#).
- 35 1.5.2.4. Support and promotion for the addition of Credential and Role information for Author to the USCDI future versions.
- 1.5.3. [Consequential Data Update](#)
- 40 1.5.3.1. From the end user perspective, it is often difficult to discern the point of origin or "source of truth" for a particular dataset or data item. This is particularly true as data finds its way traversing multiple exchange hops distant from its point of origination, as data content and context may be transformed multiple times, e.g.,

1

DUWG Implementation Guide Feedback Form

The Data Usability Workgroup is seeking public feedback on the Implementation Guide, Version 1 through **October 14, 2022**. Please include the page number and line number for all comments.

DUWG Implementation Guide Feedback

Name *(Required)*

Didi

Davis

First

Last

Email *(Required)*

ddavis@sequoiaproject.org

Organization

The Sequoia Project

Organization URL

www.sequoiaproject.org

1. Data Provenance & Traceability of Changes

Page 11, line 12 - Add hyperlink for quick reference to HL7 Implementation Guide
Page 11, line 19 - Add internal document link to Appendix A

2

Enter comments for specific sections

3

SUBMIT

Once all comments are entered, scroll to bottom of form and click submit button

4

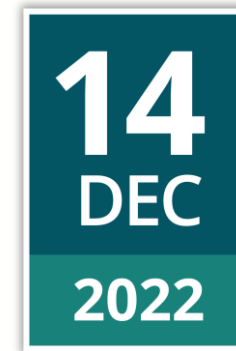
DUWG Implementation Guide Feedback Form

The Data Usability Workgroup is seeking public feedback on the Implementation Guide, Version 1 through **October 14, 2022**. Please include the page number and line number for all comments.

Thanks for contacting us! We will get in touch with you shortly.

Phase 4: Finalizing Implementation Guide for Publication

- Comments will be disposed as they are received by the Leadership team and socialized on the monthly workgroup meetings (first Thursday of each month) through December 1, 2022
- **The Final Version 1** of the Implementation Guide will be published **December 14, 2022**
- The Implementation Guide will be highlighted at the in-person Sequoia Annual Member Meeting in Washington, DC
 - Grand Hyatt Washington
 - Register and Subscribe for Updates
 - <https://sequoiaproject.org/2022-annual-meeting/>



Data Usability Work Group

For more information:

www.sequoiaproject.org/interoperability-matters/data-usability-workgroup/



(571) 327-3640



Interopmatters@sequoiaproject.org

Convene



Collaborate



Interoperate



**Thank You for your support of
Interoperability Matters!**