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.
The Sequoia Project
Overview and Timeline
Evolution of The Sequoia Project

2012
Sequoia Formed (Operated as Healtheway, 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

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From Incubation to Independent Organization

eHealth Exchange
operates a nationwide public-private health information network

Carequality operates a nationwide interoperability framework to interconnect health information networks
One Connection Exchanges with 95%* Hospitals

Using a hub & spoke architecture, eHealth Exchange participants leverage 1 connection to exchange 11.9 trillion transactions annually within all 50 states.

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

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4,200+ hospitals
50,000+ clinics
600,000+ health care providers
300M+ documents exchanged monthly

Live implementers & their clients
- Cerner
- Brightree
- Evident
- Greenway Health
- Meditech

Interoperability MATTERS
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]

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.sequoiaplanet.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
- Data Usability Workgroup
- Emergency Preparedness Information Workgroup
Interoperability Matters Structure

Advisory Forum (Public)

Leadership Council (Members Only)

Facilitate

Input

Information Blocking WG

Data Usability WG

Emergency Preparedness WG

Sequoia Board

Align Mission

Support
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

Healthcare Providers: 20%
Health IT Developers: 18%
HIN/HIEs: 13%
Federal, State, Local Government: 13%
Health Plan/Payer: 10%
Consumer/Patient: 5%
Public Health: 2%
Other: 15%

351 Participants

Standards Developer: 4%
Federal, State, Local Government: 13%
Health Plan/Payer: 10%
Consumer/Patient: 5%
Public Health: 2%
Other: 15%
Health IT Developers: 18%
Healthcare Providers: 20%

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DATA USABILITY WORKGROUP ROADMAP

Phase 1: Administration and Prioritization
- 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

Phase 2: Developing Initial Draft
- 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

Phase 3: Public Comment Period/Recommended Next Steps
- 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

Phase 4: Finalizing Implementation Guide
- 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

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 a 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.
Phase 3: Public Comment Process

- 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!

1. Data Provenance & Traceability of Changes

[Page # and Line #]

2. Effective Use of Codes

[Page #, line # - Comment, suggested edits]

3. Reducing the Impact of Duplicates

[Page #, line # - Comment, suggested edits]

4. Data Integrity, Format and Trust

[Page #, line # - Comment, suggested edits]

5. Data Tagging / Searchability

[Page #, line # - Comment, suggested edits]

6. Effective Use of Narrative for Usability

[Page #, line # - Comment, suggested edits]

Additional Feedback
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

Now Available
Data Usability Workgroup Implementation Guide Version 1
Public comment period will end October 14
Phase 3: Public Comment Process Example

1. DUWG Implementation Guide Feedback Form

The Data Useability 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)
First Last
Email (Required)
dkemp@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 16 - Add internal document link to Appendix A

2. Consequential Data Update

15.3.1. 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.,
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!