

EMERGING STANDARDS

A Structured Approach to Public Health Interoperability

The Emerging Standards (ES) process provides a structured, low-risk environment to explore and develop solutions for public health data exchange—focusing on solving real-world challenges rather than promoting any single technology.

Why This Matters

Without structure, there is a risk public health will fall behind or rush untested solutions. Emerging Standards provides a transparent, community-driven approach to keep public health at the forefront of innovation, ready to tackle today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

Goal

Advance public health interoperability by thoughtfully evaluating and shaping new standards while supporting existing ones, like HL7 v2.

Key Principles

- **Problem Solving, Not Technology Adoption:** Emerging Standards isn't about pushing FHIR or any other tool as the solution but finding the right solution for real challenges.
- **Active Participation in Standards Development:** Public health needs a voice. We must actively engage in shaping FHIR and other standards to reflect real-world immunization and public health priorities.
- **Frameworks, Not Finished Products:** Standards like FHIR offer structure but require public health expertise to apply them effectively.
- **Community-Driven Implementation Guides (IGs) and/or Guidance Documents:** Expect multiple IGs, not one-size-fits-all solutions, tailored to different stages of readiness and need.
- **Collaboration Across Sectors:** Success requires partnerships with vendors, public agencies, and national and global partners.

The Emerging Standards Process

A seven-stage lifecycle ensures ideas mature before becoming implemented as standards:



1. **Idea** – Identify challenges and potential solutions.



2. **Monitor** – Track developments and gather background.



3. **Gather** – Collect stakeholder feedback and assess feasibility.



4. **Start** – Develop draft models, demos, and test cases.



5. **Draft** – Publish specifications for community review.



6. **Pilot** – Conduct pilot implementations and real-world testing.



7. **Rollout** – Support widespread adoption with training and resources.

Get Involved!

- [Join the Standards & Interoperability Steering Committee \(SISC\)](#).
- [Join the HL7 Public Health Work Group \(PHWG\)](#).
- [Join the International Vaccine Codes \(IVC\) Initiative](#).