

Digital Health Standards Interoperability Specification Open Review

Ontario Medical Imaging (MI) DICOM[®] Implementation Guide v1.0.0-ballot

Ontario Medical Imaging (MI) HL7[®] FHIR[®] Implementation Guide v1.0.0-ballot

Webinar Questions & Answers

April 23, 2026



**Ontario
Health**

Glossary

DICOM – Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine

DIMSE - DICOM Message Service Element

DI-CS - Diagnostic Imaging Common Services

DIR - Diagnostic Imaging Repository

EHR – Electronic Health Record

EIV - Enterprise Image Viewer

EI-VNA - Enterprise Imaging Vendor Neutral Archive

EMR – Electronic Medical Record

FEM – Foreign Exam Management

FHIR – Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

HIC – Health Information Custodian

HIS - Hospital Information System

HL7® - Health Level Seven

HL7® FHIR® - HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources Standard

ICHSC – Integrated Community Health Services Centres

IG – Implementation Guide

MI – Medical Imaging

miCDR – Medical Imaging Clinical Data Repository

NA – Not Applicable

OCRE – Ontario Clinical Report Exchange

OH – Ontario Health

PACS - Picture Archiving and Communication System

PHIPA – Personal Health Information Protection Act

PCV - Provincial Clinical Viewer

PPV - Provincial Patient Viewer

RIS – Radiology Information System

UIDs - Unique Identifiers

VNA – Vendor Neutral Archive

Questions & Answers (Q&A)

#	Related Specification	Question	Response
1	DICOM	Which VNA vendor did you go with?	Procurement is still in progress.
2	DICOM	Is your VNA going to replace the OCINet or how it is going to interact with them?	OCINet is the organization that manages the three regional DIR solutions. These three DIR solutions will be consolidated into a single provincial EHR solution consisting of miCDR, VNA, and the Provincial Clinical and Patient viewers. The regional DIR solutions will continue to operate during the period of transition and will eventually be decommissioned.
3	DICOM	Will you have a plan to allow hospitals to query your VNA without going to another viewer?	This is already supported today from the PACS to retrieve local and foreign exams from a regional DIR and will be carried over to the new VNA. Other access methods such as image-enabling hospital EMRs are part of our future longer-term vision.
4	Both	How will you link patients as a single entity. It was briefly glossed over, is there a provincial EMPI, would a hospital be allowed to use it in the future?	Our Provincial Clinical Viewer (PCV), Provincial Patient Viewer (PPV), and Provincial Foreign Exam Management (FEM) solutions will each integrate with our Provincial Client Registry (PCR) (aka EMPI) to link all available patient identities within PCR and provide a full longitudinal patient record. Direct integration of hospitals to PCR is not currently supported.

Questions & Answers (Q&A) cont'd.

#	Related Specification	Question	Response
5	FHIR	In the future if third party assistance is required during the upgrade to comply with DHIEX MI FHIR or HL7 v2 specs, will the ICHSCs bear the cost of it or will there be any assistance with that?	Funding related to implementation is out of scope for this Open Review webinar.
6	DICOM	Is there going to be a retention period for Imaging?	The retention period for imaging studies is out of scope for interoperability specifications.
7	FHIR	Are the FHIR value sets and FHIR specs shared between other OH assets?	Yes, where applicable. For example, the FHIR value sets CompositionStatus, AdministrativeGender, and DataAbsentReason are used in most Ontario Health assets such as acCDR, PHSD, and Patient Summary, ensuring consistency and alignment.