

Facilitating Data Exchange: Developing a national interoperability framework

Session Name: Facilitating Data Exchange: Developing a national interoperability framework

OHIE18 Event Page - ohie.org/OHIE18

Time / Room: 2:15 - 3:15 Tembo

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Etherpad Link: https://notes.ohie.org/2018-07-31_Facilitating_Data_Exchange_Framework

Notes:

SA - 54 million population

Life expectancy isn't great, way below targets

High infant mortality rate

Health care is poor compared to the amount spent

Two systems, public and private - 50% funds to each

84% of the population is served by the public system, 16% by the private, despite 50/50 spend split

NHI busy being implemented

The dream: Integrated quality care for all

Important to integrate things like social services, preventative care and lifestyle management into the healthcare system

This increases the quality of the services offered

Provider continuity is important

Strong case for interop - can't offer integrated care without sharing health information

Interop is critical for an NHI

Report published a few years back listing issues with healthcare

Priority 3 - Standards and interop

HNSF created - systems required to conform to this to be properly interop

Largely tech agnostic, although it does assume some architectural designs

Significant problem - exchange of information between systems

Some key flows identified - Child and maternal health included

Took existing standards, such as HL7

Considered scalability and connectability

Considered specific health functions required

Displayed diagram - Some sections are isomorphic to the OHIE diagrams

Govt blocked all procurement of new health systems - HNSF should pave the way to remove this roadblock

Can't be static - have to keep updating

Next phase - out of scope items, such as mobile health, and refreshing the existing framework

Create reference implementations

Provide architectural guidance to implement at national scale

Assist with procurement

Missing: compliance testing facility. Unsure how to implement, would love feedback.

Any national scale interventions need a robust governance and regulatory framework

SA has strong requirements around protection of information - POPI etc.

Questions:

Framework isn't prescriptive internal to systems, only cares about interface points.

Important not to stifle creativity in health systems - how to certify is definitely an outstanding question

Lessons - need very senior support to implement a project of this scale (this was a senior minister's pet project)

- important to map out a national plan

- Need to take into account existing standards - everything from scratch would be ludicrous

Strong recommendation - Try to build on top of existing systems

Unsure how new standards would be incorporated. It's intended to be a living framework, so it's intended to be refreshed as new tech comes along. Should be refreshed every ~2 years.

SA is a wild mix of infrastructure extremes. Priority 8 on the aforementioned report describes ongoing infrastructure requirements. HNSF doesn't prescribe what comms tech to use.

In some cases, HNSF has made no difference, since the decision lies with provincial DOH. Some systems have seen a lot of activity around implementing HNSF.

Governance and leadership responsibility probably lies with the NDOH.

This can be used as a reference for other countries to use to implement their own versions. Maybe wait for v2 refresh, incorporates some important new things.

Standards selected were based on use cases, taking into account existing standards. Some parts needed to take government mandates into account.