



IDENT	CPL-005
Type of Document:	Reference
Type of Policy:	Compliance
Sponsor's Dept:	IT
Title of Sponsor:	Director of Technology
Title of Approving Official:	CEO
Policy Administrator	Jonathan Knapp
Date Released (Published):	06-24-2021
Next Review Date:	07-01-2022

VHIE Technical Capabilities Related to Access to Electronic Health Information

1. Purpose

This policy is intended to explain the technical capabilities of the Vermont Health Information Exchange (VHIE) when responding to requests for Electronic Health Information (EHI) consistent with the Information Blocking Final Rule (Final Rule). This policy is an extension of the CPL-001 – Prohibition of Information Blocking of EHI and related policies.

2. Scope

This policy describes the three major technical areas related to responding to requests for EHI from the VHIE by Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) staff. The policy identifies the EHI data elements that are available in VHIE records, the methods that VITL staff can use to export data when responding to requests, and the transmission methods that are approved to securely deliver EHI to requestors.

3. Policy

Available EHI:

The patient medical records maintained in the VHIE (VHIE Record) are composed of data elements that have been contributed by one or more health care organizations that participate with the VHIE. For purposes of this document, a patient's information available in the VHIE, their VHIE Record, contains the information that has been provided to the VHIE by the participating healthcare organization(s). Not all document types or data elements are provided by all data contributors.

Under the Final Rule, the definition of EHI is initially limited to the electronic health information identified by the data elements represented in the USCDI V1 standard. Due to the variation in information contributed by each participating healthcare organization to the VHIE, some data elements may appear in multiple areas or may not be present.

The USCDI V1 Data elements are supported by the VHIE, except where noted with italics below:

Allergies and Intolerances

- Substance (Medication)
- Substance (Drug Class)
- Reaction

Assessment and Plan of Treatment

Care Team members

Clinical Notes

- Consultation Note
- Discharge Summary Note
- History & Physical
- Imaging Narrative
- Laboratory Report Narrative
- Pathology Report Narrative
- Procedure Note
- Progress Note

Health Concerns

Immunizations

Laboratory

- Tests
- Values/Results

Medications

Patient Demographics

- First Name
- Last Name
- Previous Name
- Middle Name (including Middle Initial)
- Suffix
- *Birth Sex– Note: this is not supported in demographics but may be captured in notes.*
- Date of Birth
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Preferred Language
- Current Address
- *Previous Address – Note: this is not supported in demographics but may be included in an earlier document.*
- Phone number
- Phone number Type
- *Email Address – Note: this is not supported at this time*

Patient Goals

Problems

Procedures

Provenance

- Author Time Stamp
- Author Organization

Smoking Status

Unique Device Identifier(s) for a Patient's Implantable Device(s)

Vital Signs

- Diastolic Blood Pressure
- Systolic Blood Pressure
- Body Height
- Body Weight
- Heart rate
- Respiratory Rate
- Body Temperature
- Pulse Oximetry
- Inhaled Oxygen Concentration
- BMI Percentile (2-20 Years)
- Weight-for-length Percentile (Birth -36 Months)
- Head Occipital-frontal Circumference Percentile (Birth-36 Months)

The provenance of data included in a VHIE Record is established by appending the contributing organization and associated timestamp to each section of patient data displayed by the system.

VITL Data Export Capabilities

VITL is currently able to make patient data available through individual exports of a Continuity of Care Document (CCD) formatted as Health Language Seven (HL7) data. This CCD document is an extract of a VHIE Record and is structured in both machine readable .XML and human readable .HTML file formats.

VITL is currently able to support a near real-time transmission of requested EHI formatted as HL7 data over a message interface. In order to support an interface, a site-to-site Virtual Private Network (VPN) must additionally be established to secure the connection.

In addition, VITL's web-based provider portal, VITLAccess, also makes a patient's VHIE Record available to participating treating health care providers.

Viable Data Transmission Methods:

VITL can support the following transmission methods for returning requested EHI:

- Encrypted email
- USPS Certified Mail

- Face-to-face transfer (supported when VITL's office are open)
- Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP)
- HL7 Interface over a site-to-site VPN
- VITLAccess

4. References

This policy is an extension of the CPL-001 – Prohibition of Information Blocking of EHI and related policies.



CPL-001 – Information Blocking Policy

5. Definitions

Refer to VITL's CPL-006 - Glossary of Information Blocking Terms document for definitions relating to this policy.

6. Policy Review & Approval

VITL management performs periodic reviews of this policy as referenced by the next review date field above; or whenever new guidance/clarifications are issued by CMS/ONC. Following this review, VITL management reserves the right to update this policy.

	04/05/2021
_____ Policy Sponsor	_____ Date
	04/05/2021
_____ Approving Official	_____ Date