

Public Health Data Intermediary



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Revolutionizing How Data is Shared

eHealth Exchange™

Public Health Data Intermediary Overview

An intermediary is essential for streamlining and standardizing data exchange across healthcare, public health and federal systems, reducing fragmentation, ensuring data security and enabling rapid, coordinated responses to public health challenges at scale. An effective intermediary bridges gaps between parties, enhances decision-making, improves resource allocation and fosters a more integrated health system.

APHL Provides Essential Public Health Core Services

APHL routes critical Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR), Electronic Case Reporting (eCR), Electronic Test Orders and Results (ETOR), and other use cases through the APHL Informatics Messaging Services (AIMS) platform, making it a vital component of our nation's public health infrastructure. With relationships across healthcare, state and local public health, and federal partners and a strong technical infrastructure, APHL can easily expand to handle additional data sources and data flows. Products and services, including standards and integration experts, are provided across various use cases to our trading partners, shortening implementation times from kickoff to production.

Spotlight: Public Health Query for Follow-Up Data

Healthcare organizations (HCOs) and public health agencies (PHAs) are adopting eCR to enhance disease surveillance and case investigations. In 2024, APHL operationalized the TEFCA use case for eCR, allowing HCOs to send electronic initial case reports (eICRs) through QHINs to AIMS, making it one of the few active TEFCA use cases in production. Building on these achievements, AIMS has developed several tools to support these dataflows. In 2024, APHL partnered with Deloitte Consulting to develop a streamlined, FHIR-based query. This process will enable the Florida Department of Health and other PHAs to submit a FHIR Patient resource to AIMS, which then queries HCOs that have seen the patient to retrieve essential follow-up data via AIMS after receiving an electronic initial case report (eICR). This push and pull of more complete, detailed healthcare data enables timely response to public health needs.



TEFCA is a framework designed to enable secure, nationwide interoperability between health information networks in the US.



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1. **Initiation:** PHA initiates a FHIR-formatted patient query to AIMS

2. **Patient Discovery:** AIMS parses demographic data and initiates XCPD via eHealth Exchange Hub.

3. **Patient Discovery Results:** AIMS receives Aggregated XCPD response and parses it to confirm match with source eICR.

4. **Document Query:** AIMS initiates document query via eHealth Exchange Hub using patient identifier.

5. **Document List:** AIMS receives query results from HCO and parses list to identify CCD document for patient.

6. **Request Document:** AIMS requests identified CCD from HCO via eHealth Exchange Hub.

7. **Receive Document:** HCO sends CCD through network to AIMS.

8. **Data Presentation:** AIMS makes CCD available to initiating PHA via existing document 'push' channels.

Find out more!

To get involved in the work of the APHL Public Health Intermediary, email informatics@aphl.org.



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- **Benefits to healthcare organizations**
- **Benefits to state and local public health practitioners**
- **Benefits to the nation's public health system**



The impact of an exceptional intermediary on public health and healthcare

- Data flowing to jurisdictions with a consistent application of standards across interested parties.
- Automated data flows between interested parties, eliminating manual processes.
- Reduced point-to-point connections.
- Core products and services that support multiple domains and programs.
- Improved user experience across products and services.
- More efficient use of funding and fewer duplicative products and services.
- Improved engagement and alignment between public health and healthcare.
- Enhanced preparedness for future pandemics.

More Exciting Updates from the APHL Public Health Intermediary Are Coming!

APHL, assisted by Deloitte Consulting LLP, will soon unveil innovative developments for the intermediary. We invite you to join us for demonstrations and to share your valuable input in the coming months.

Find out more!

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