

## **HATA Educational Webinar:**

### **Slaying the Fax Machine**

Liora Alschuler, CEO; Rick Geimer, CIO  
Lantana Consulting Group

## **Introduction**

- Liora Alschuler and Rick Geimer
- Lantana

## **Background**

## **Standards/Industry Consensus**

## **Moving to Implementation**

## **Discussion and Questions**

- Liora is a developer of standards for the exchange of electronic healthcare information, and a consultant in their application for interoperability, analysis, and data reporting.
- In 1997, she led the project that designed the first XML-based exchange specification for healthcare – the Health Level Seven (HL7) Clinical Document Architecture (CDA).
- In 2005, she founded Lantana Consulting Group.
- In 2007, she co-founded the Health Story Project and later served on its executive committee for HIMSS.
- She served two terms on the HL7 Board of Directors and years as an HL7 co-chair.
- Contact her at [Liora.Alschuler@lantanagroup.com](mailto:Liora.Alschuler@lantanagroup.com) or [www.lantanagroup.com](http://www.lantanagroup.com)

- Lantana Chief Innovation Officer
- Co-chair HL7 FHIR Infrastructure (FHIR-I) Workgroup
- Member of the HL7 Structured Documents and Attachments Work Groups and on the CDA Management Group
- Co-author of many CDA Implementation Guides such as Consolidated CDA (C-CDA)
- Lead of the C-CDA on FHIR Project and several implementation guides (IG) under the Da Vinci Project

## Our Mission

- Improve healthcare through health information technology (IT)
- Lead the industry through our consulting and volunteer practice

## Our Value Proposition

- Interoperability for care coordination, system integration, health information exchange
- Data reuse for measurement and reporting, decision support, and improvement

## Our Services

- Strategic planning
- Implementation
- Software development
- Specification development and testing
- Program management
- Education and training
- [www.lantanagroup.com](http://www.lantanagroup.com)

## Introduction

## Background

- Mandates
- Status Quo
- Empire & Mayo Clinic “pilots”

## Standards/Industry Consensus

## Moving to Implementation

## Discussion and Questions

## **Mandate**

- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) 1996

## **Notice of Proposed Rule Making: 2005**

## **Mandate**

- Affordable Care Act (ACA) 2010

## **Notice of Great Expectations: 2016**

## **Notice of Not Dead: 2017**

## **HHS Unified Agenda announced release of Attachment NPRM for August 2018**

## **What we know today: NCVHS 2016**

- Testimony
- Letter

<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=201710&RIN=0938-AT38>

### Meeting with CMS, Division of National Standards

- “These transactions will bring significant return on investment through simplified administrative processes, clinical data exchange improvements, and fraud prevention opportunities.”
- “Efficiencies associated with electronic attachments will also directly result in improved flow of clinical information and enhancement of the patient care delivery process.”
- “The implementation of these standards will result in substantial cost savings, not only to providers and commercial health plans, but also to government health programs.” [3]

Letter to Secretary Price, July 2017, signed American Dental Association, Availity, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, Cerner, Change Healthcare, Epic, eSolutions, Humana, Jopari Solutions, Medical Group Management Association, Office Ally, Optum, The Cooperative Exchange, The National Clearinghouse Association, UnitedHealthcare, Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange, Zirmed



### **Cooperative Exchange: National Clearinghouse Association**

- February 16, 2016 survey, presented to National Center for Vital Health Statistics
- 2/3 of membership represented

### **49,000,000 Electronic Attachments/year**

- 55% Property & Casualty
- 15% Dental
- 15% Commercial
- 15% Government

### **Transport Methods**

- 53% Web portal (single, batch)
- 27% X12 275
- 14% SFTP encrypted
- 5% Secure email, other non-standard

## Use Case

- 83% Claims/reimbursement
- 3% Prior authorization
- 3% Referral
- 11% Post adjudication (appeal)

## Attachment Format

- 95% Unstructured (PDF, TIF...)
- 5% Structured (C-CDA)

## Provider ROI on *Claims Attachments*

	Ave. Savings per Transaction	Transactions /Month	Monthly Savings
Physician Office	\$3.73 (*)	500	\$1,865
Medical/dental provider	\$4.08 (**)	500	\$2,040

\* Milliman, Inc., 2006

\*\* CAQH 2016 Index

### Findings:

- Savings are significant
- Industry-wide data needed

## Electronic Attachments: Why We Need Them

“The cost of inefficient healthcare claims processes, payment, and reconciliation is estimated to be between \$21 billion and \$210 billion, eating up 10% to 14% of physician practice revenue, according to the American Medical Association (AMA).”

—K. Bonvissuto

## Implemented 2005-2007

- Payer: Empire Medicare, now part of National Government Services (NGS)
- Providers: Montefiore, Memorial Sloan Kettering, others using NextGen PMS
- Vendor support: Claredi

## Standards

- X12 277, X12 275 v4050
- Unstructured CDA Release 1

*Thanks to Mary Lynn Bushman for this information*

### Findings

- Challenge: Lack of HL7 CDA knowledge and experience
- Successes:
  - The providers were able to receive and interpret the 277 request for information.
  - Empire was able to receive and process the 275 & CDA.
- No data on ROI

# Mayo/NGS: The Pilot that Never Stopped

## **Initially, Mayo piloted with a different national payer**

- It went so well, they never turned it off
- Became a requirement when NGS took over in 2014
- Unsolicited

## **Simple CDA (XML body, no coded clinical data)**

Over SFTP

Operative Reports

~ 3,000 per year

*Thanks to Laurie Darst, Calvine Beebe, other informants*

# Mayo/NGS: The Pilot that Never Stopped

## Mayo migrating to new EHR

- Will start sending coded C-CDA R2.1
- Will go live initially from Rochester campus
- Expanding beyond the Rochester campus

## Findings

- Satisfied provider
  - Provider reimbursed 30 days sooner
  - Appeals decreased
  - Fewer mailed requests (easier to match unsolicited attachment when sent with claim)
- Satisfied payer
  - Decreased appeals, denials, and call volume



## Introduction

## Background

## Standards/Industry Consensus

- HL7 Attachment IG: CDA + X12
- Use Cases & Orchestration
  - Basic
  - Detailed Example

## Moving to Implementation

## Discussion and Questions

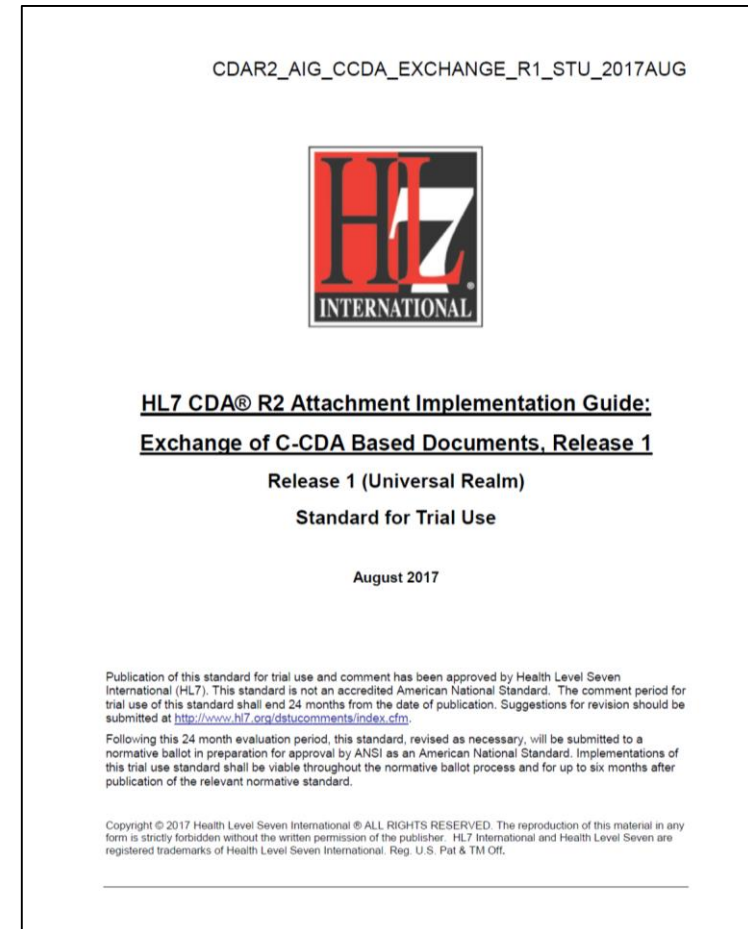
# HL7 Attachments Implementation Guide

## HL7 CDA Attachment Implementation Guide (IG):

- Exchange of C-CDA Based Documents, Release 1 (Universal Realm)
- Standard for Trial Use
- **Released August 2017**

### The IG Documents:

- Approach
- Background
  - Structured/unstructured
  - ISO Object Identifiers (OIDs)
  - Base64 Encoding
  - Document Succession
- Classification using LOINC
- Business requirements
- Rules (conformance requirements)



### Letter to Secretary: July, 2016

- **Adopt standards** for Attachments Request, Response, Electronic Clinical Document, and Acknowledgments
- Utilize **incremental adoption** and implementation approach
- **Ensure alignment** with:
  - Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program
  - Medicare Access CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA)/Merit-Bases Incentive Payment System (MIPS)

## Base Standards

- X12 277 Health Care Information Status Notification
- X12 275 Patient Information
- X12 278 Health Care Services Review Information

## Implementation Guides

- ASC X12N 277 Health Care Claim Request for Additional Information
- ASC X12N 275 Additional Information to Support a Health Care Claim or Encounter
- ASC X12N 278 Health Care Services Review – Request for Review and Response
- ASC X12N 275 Additional Information to Support a Health Care Services Review

## Emerging Standards

- HL7 FHIR (Fast Health Interoperability Resources) being tested as an alternative for X12 transactions
- FHIR documents being tested as an alternative to CDA

## HL7

- HL7 is the name of the organization, not the standards it creates
- Domain: clinical interoperability

### **Most widely implemented standard**

- “HL7 Version 2” messaging
- HL7-specific syntax (close to X12)
- Intra-enterprise
- Admission/discharge/transfer, lab most heavily implemented
- Ubiquitous in US hospitals since 1990s

## XML-generation standards

### “Version 3” messaging

- Complex
- Largely defunct

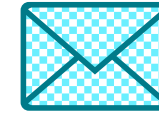
### CDA

- Took simple approach to V3 model +XML
- Different use case: persistent documents

### New generation standards

- Fast Health Interoperability Resources (FHIR) (XML or JSON)
- Supports messaging, documents, and RESTful APIs

**Message is considered the envelope:**



**Clinical content is considered the letter:**

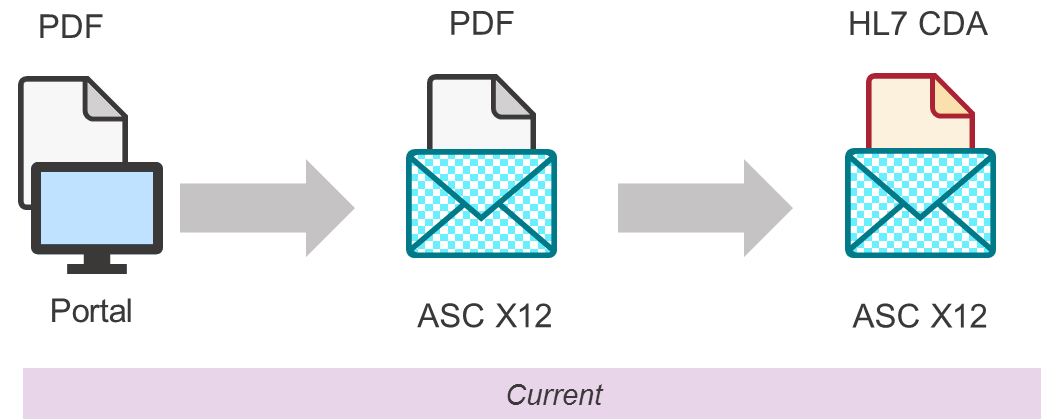


- ASC X12 message with PDF



- ASC X12 message with HL7 CDA





## Attachment: Message + Document Payload

- Payload standards represent the clinical content of an attachment (the actual clinical report)
- Messaging standards contain the attachment, as well as metadata for associating the attachment with a claim, etc.

## Message & Payload Evolve Independently

- Here, using X12 message, HL7 CDA payload
- Future possibilities include using FHIR RESTful APIs as the transport mechanism, the payload could be PDF, CDA, or FHIR.



## **X12 275 is the envelope**

- Ties attachment to:
  - Patient
  - Claim
  - Attachment request (solicited scenario)

## **CDA Contains**

- Detailed demographics
- Author/Attester information
- Detailed clinical information
  - Structured (coded data) or unstructured (embedded PDF, etc.)

## **Payload in 275 envelope**

- Base64 encoded
- Binary Data Segment (BDS)

# Base 64 Encoded CDA Document

```
TWFuIGlzIGRpc3Rpbmd1aXNoZWQsIG5vdCBvbmx5IGJ5IGhpcyByZWFzb24sIGJ1dCBieSB0aGlzIHNpbmd1bGFyIHh0c3Npb24gZnJvbSBvdGhlciBhbmltYWxzLCB3aGljaCBpcyBhIGxlc3Qgb2YgdGhlIGlpbmQsIHRoYXQgYnkgYSBwZXJzZXZlcmFuY2Ugb2YgZGVsaWdodCBpb0aGUgY29udGluZGVkIGFuZCBpbmRlZmF0aWdhYmVudGd1bmVyeXRpb24gb2Yga25vd2x1ZGdlLCBl eGN1ZWRzIHRoZSBzaG9ydCB2ZWhlbWVuY2Ugb2YgYW55IGNhcm5hbCBwbGVhc3VyZS4=
....
```

X1

```
ST*275*1001*006020X314~
BGN*11*0001*20120110~
NM1*PR*2*ABC INSURANCE CO*****PI*1234~
NM1*41*2*XYZ SERVICES*****46*A222216~
NM1*1P*HOLY HILLS HOSP*****XX1666666666~
NX1*1P~
N3*2345 WINTER BLVD~
N4*MIAMI*FL*33132~
NM1*QC*1*JACKSON*JACK*J***MI*987654320~
REF*EJ*JACKSON123~
REF*EA*STHHL12345~
DTP*472*D8*20111229~
LX*1~
TRN*2*1822634840~
STC*R4:11490-0:20120103:LOI*20120103~
DTP*368*D8*20120110~
CAT*AE*MB~
OOI*1*47*ATTACHMENT~
BDS*ASC*6289*..... <BASE 64 ENCODED CDA GOES HERE>
SE*27*1001~
```



## Unencoded CDA XML Document

```
<ClinicalDocument xmlns="urn:hl7-org:v3">
  <realmCode code="US"/>
  <typeId extension="POCD_HD000040" root="2.16.840.1.113883.1.3"/>
  <templateId root="2.16.840.1.113883.10.20.22.1.2" extension="2015-08-01"/>
  <templateId root="2.16.840.1.113883.10.20.22.1.2"/>
  <templateId root="2.16.840.1.113883.10.20.22.1.1"/>
  <id extension="TT988" root="2.16.840.1.113883.19.5.99999.1"/>
  <code code="34133-9" displayName="Summarization of Episode Note"
    codeSystem="2.16.840.1.113883.6.1" codeSystemName="LOINC"/>
  <title>Patient Chart Summary</title>
  <effectiveTime value="201308151030-0800"/>
  <confidentialityCode code="N" displayName="normal"
    codeSystem="2.16.840.1.113883.5.25"
    codeSystemName="Confidentiality"/>
  <languageCode code="en-US"/>
  ...
</ClinicalDocument>
```

## Required:

- Payer (Requestor) – Name & Plan ID
- Receiver – Name & ETIN
- Provider of Service – Name & NPI
- Patient – Name & ID
- Payer Claim Control Number (re-association key)
- LOINC code – Information Requested & Date Requested
- Response Due Date
- Payer Contact Info
- Date of Service

## Situational:

- Patient Control Number assigned by Provider on claim
- Medical Record Number assigned by Provider on claim
- Institutional Bill Type
- Property and Casualty claim number

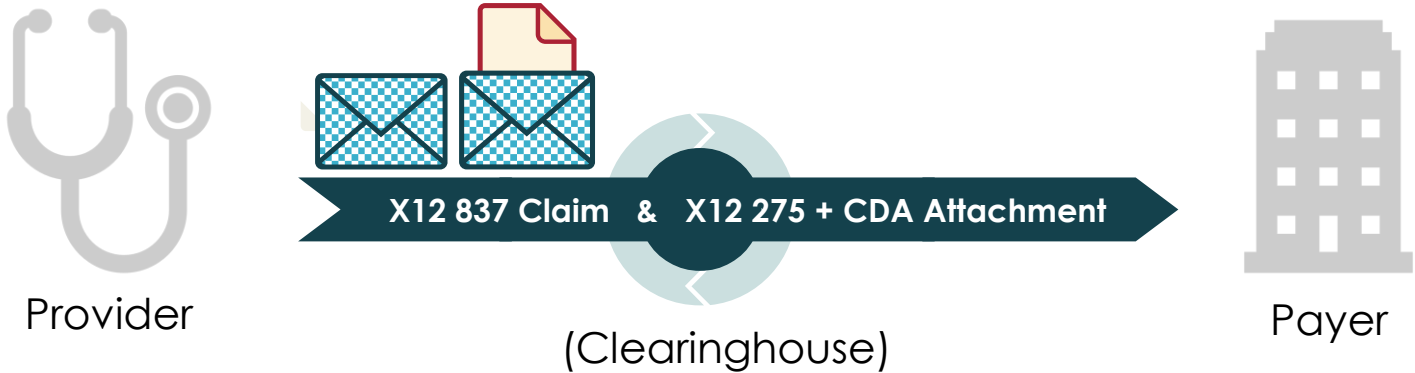
### **Solicited: Payer Initiates Attachment Control Number (ACN)**

The entity creating the request for additional information assigns an ACN to associate the Attachment response to the Attachment request. This ACN must be returned with the Attachment response message.

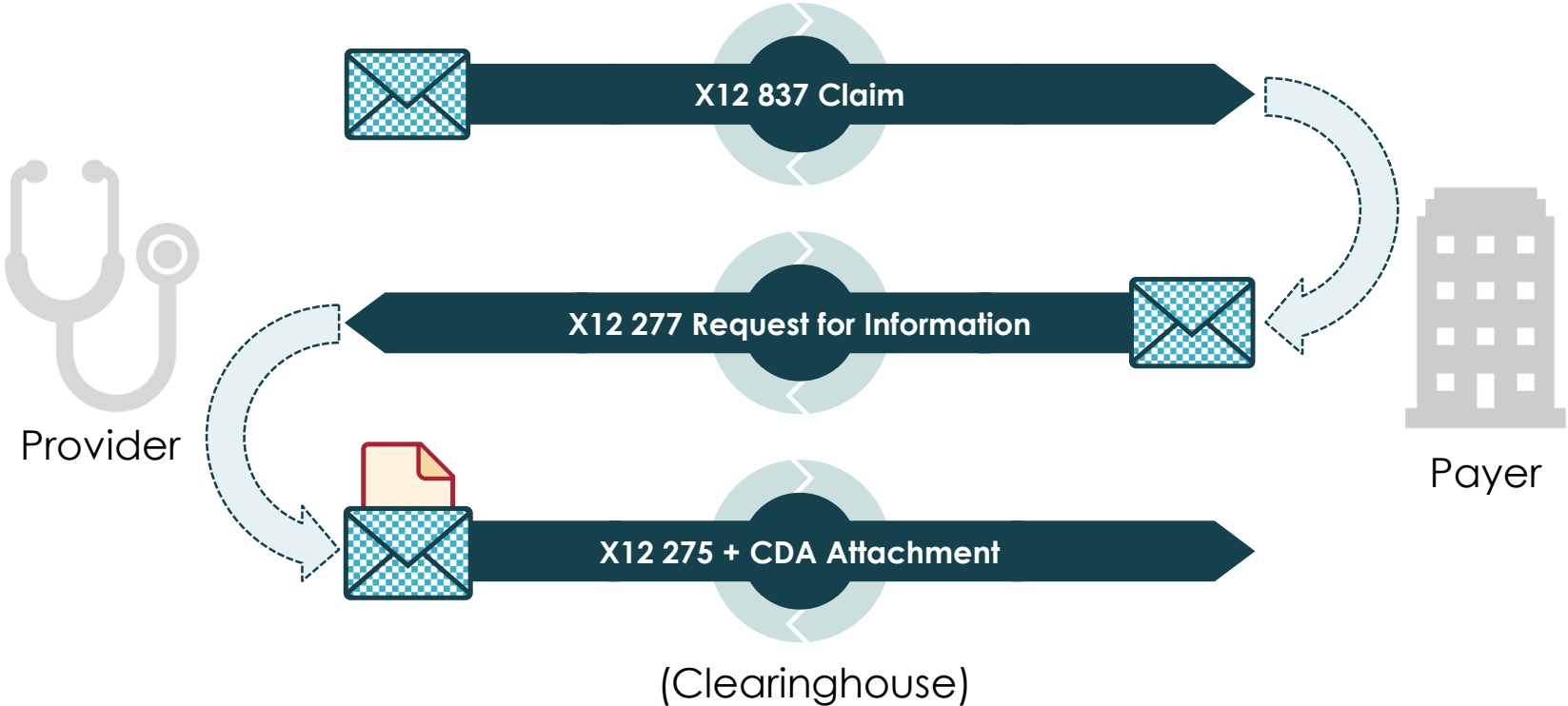
### **Unsolicited: Provider Initiates ACN**

The provider assigns an ACN. This identifier must be provided with the Attachment to associate it with the healthcare administrative activity.

# Idealized Orchestration: Unsolicited Claims Attachment



# Idealized Orchestration: Solicited Claims Attachment



**Introduction**

**Background**

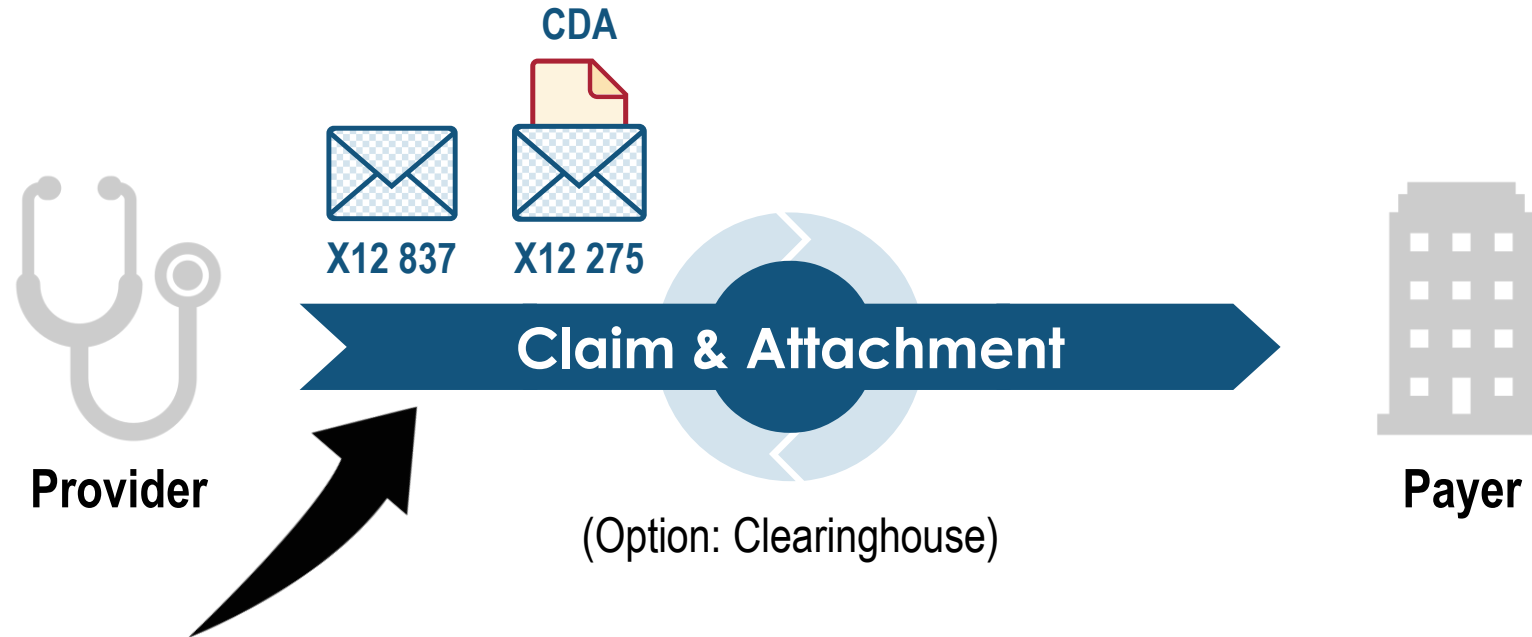
**Standards/Industry Consensus**

**Moving to Implementation**

- Challenges and Opportunities
- Connecting the Claim and the Clinical Record

**Discussion and Questions**

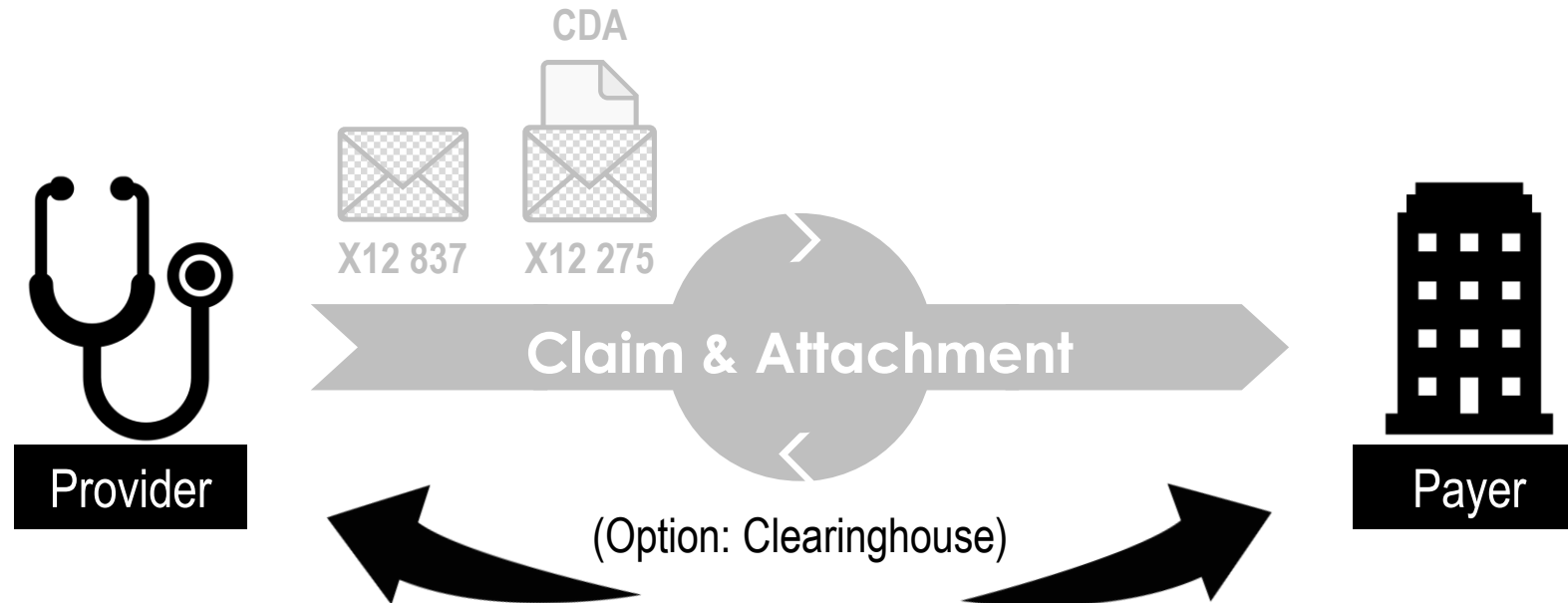
Over 20 years to develop



What if standards were the easy part?



## What happens now?



## PROVIDER CHALLENGES

### CHALLENGE #1:

- Comprehensive
- Indexed
- Integrated

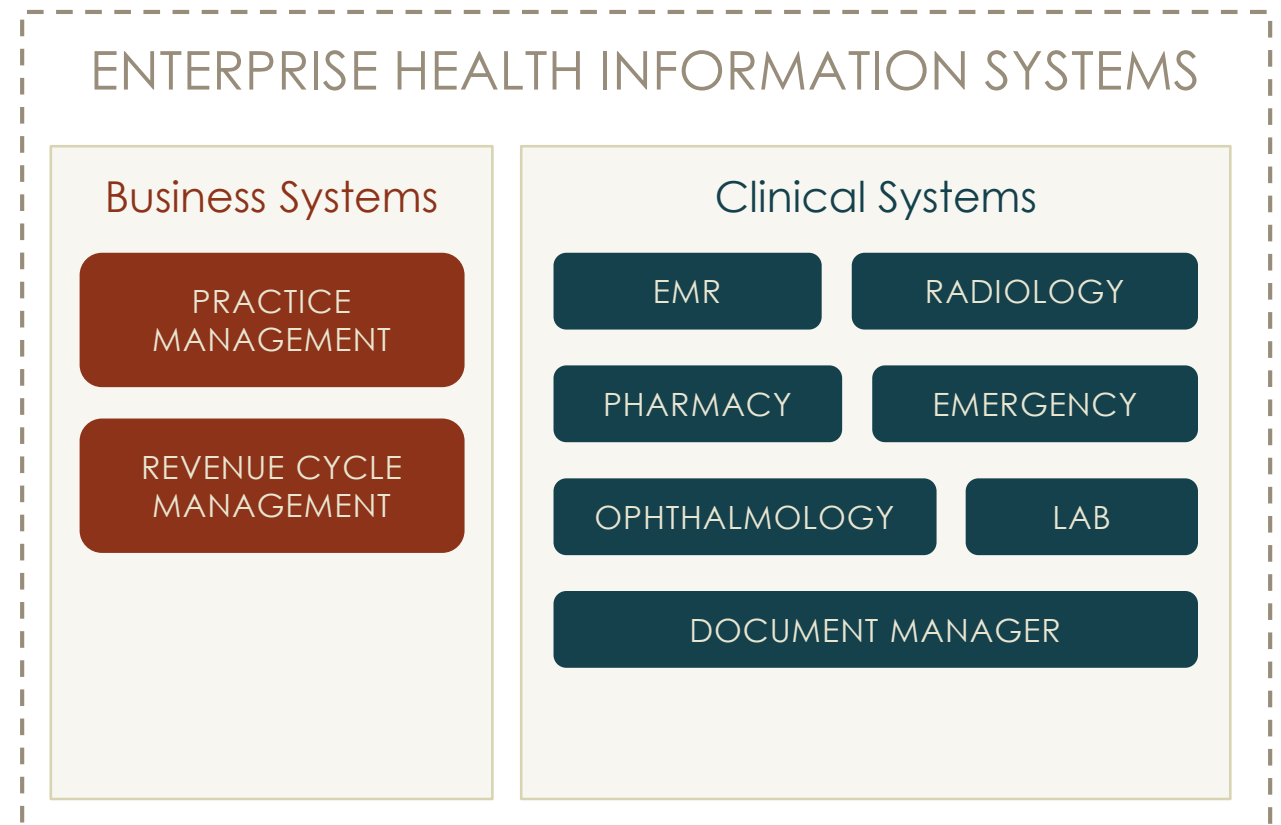
## Where does clinical information reside?

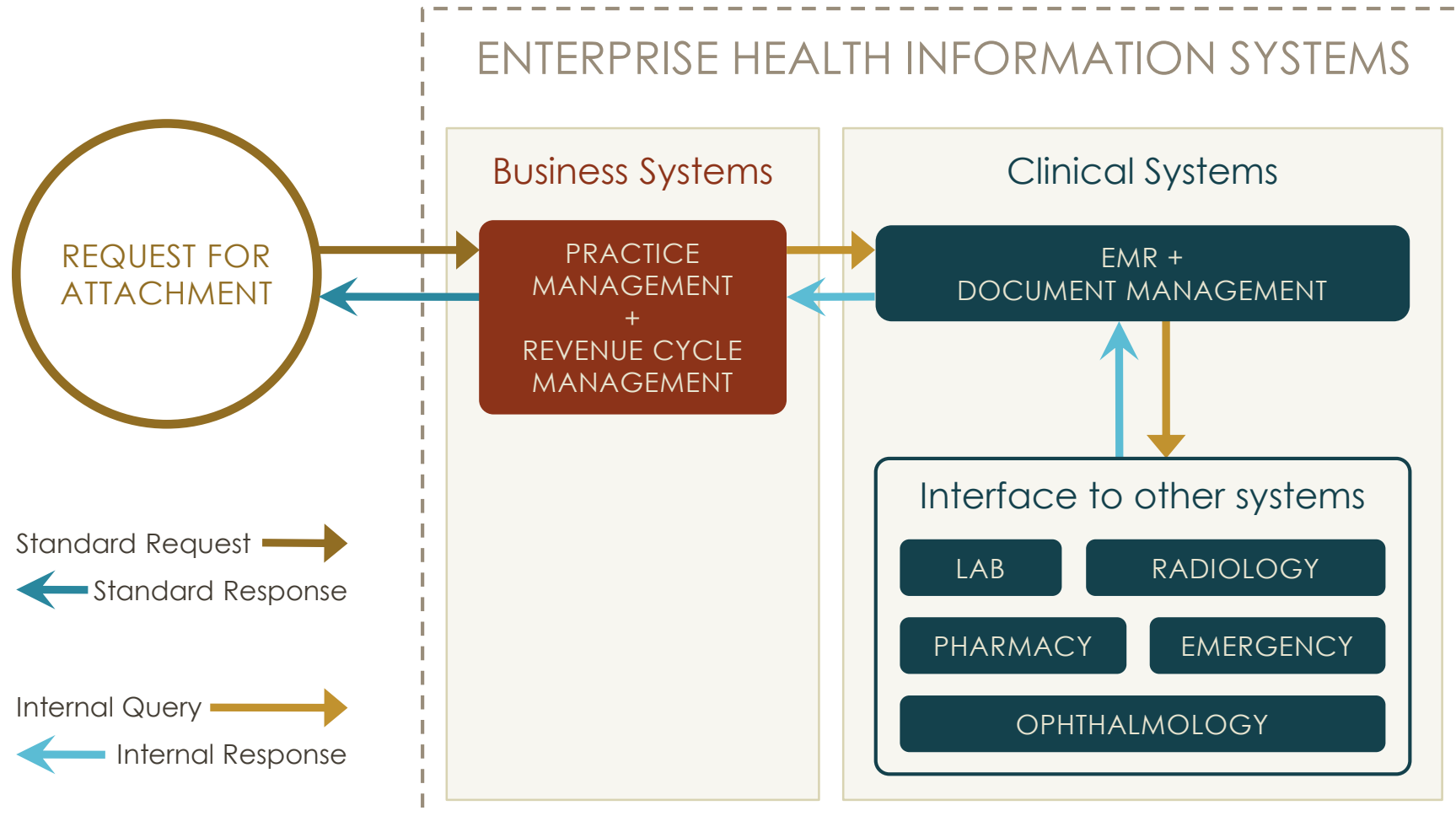
- Electronic Medical Records (EMR)
  - Outpatient
  - Inpatient
- Lab
- Clinical notes (generated outside EMR)
  - Dictated/transcribed
  - Scanned
  - Imported (text, PDF, etc.)
- Specialty systems (examples)
  - Pharmacy
  - Emergency
  - Ophthalmology
  - Radiology

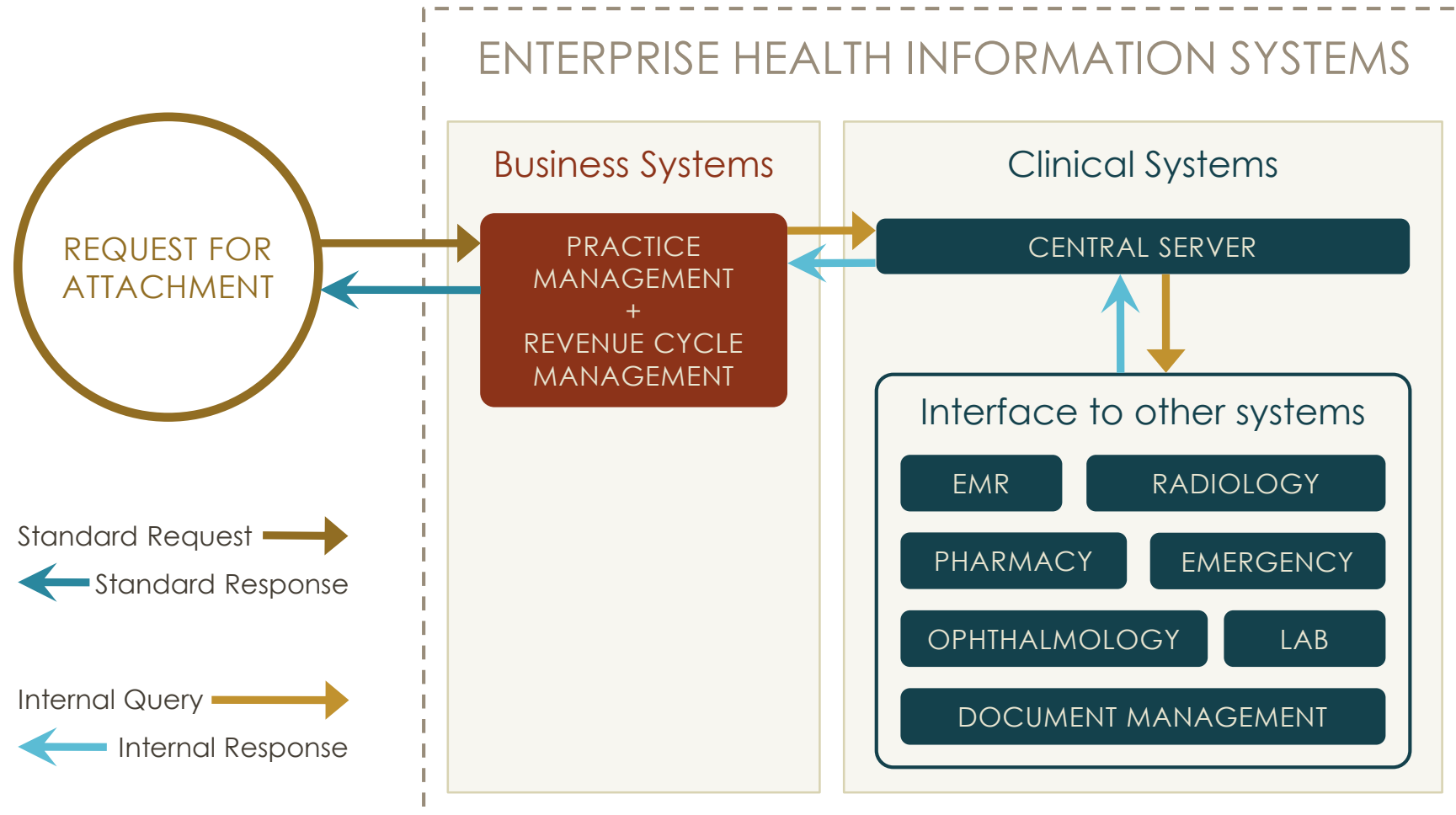
## Comprehensive, indexed record

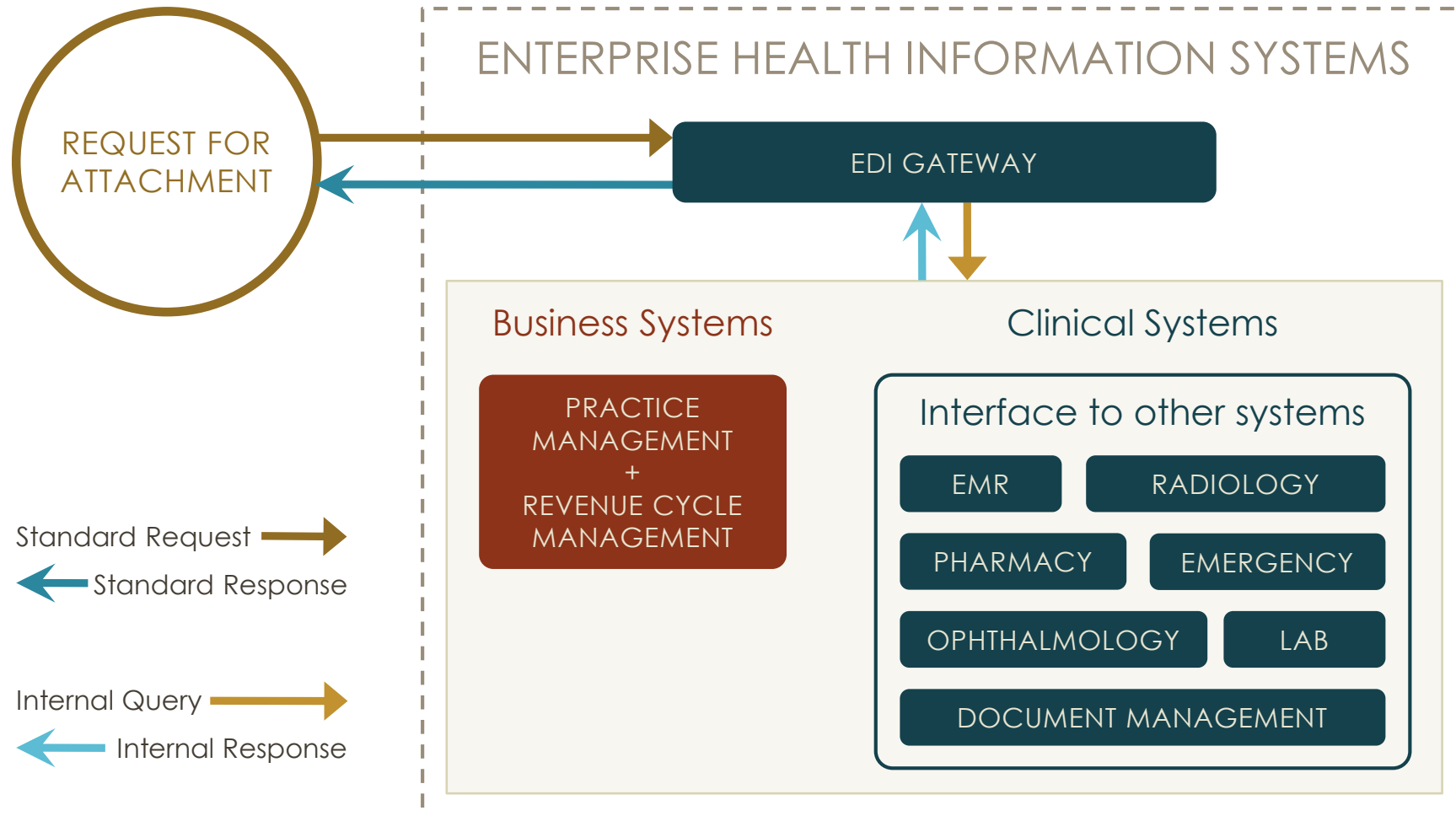
- Role of the EMR
- Enterprise document management
- Role of health information exchanges

**Everyone does it differently  
(and then there is paper)**









## PROVIDER INFORMATION CHALLENGES

### CHALLENGE #1:

- Comprehensive
- Indexed
- Integrated

### CHALLENGE #2

- So, you want it structured & coded, using whose schema and codes?



# 80% of clinical information is unstructured.

“Eighty percent of clinical data is locked away in unstructured physician notes that can’t be read by an EHR...”  
Peter Embi, MD, President & CEO Regenstrief Institute



## Six Degrees of Structure in a CDA Attachment:

- **Imaged body** – readable but not searchable, would require optical character recognition
- **Text** – supports basic text search (txt, PDF, DOC files)
- **Minimally structured** – Extensible Markup Language (XML) delineate sections, lists, tables increasing efficiency of text processing
- **Structured text with coded sections** – standard codes identify sections (<Family History>, <Allergies>, etc.) providing reliable context to narrative
- **Structured text with minimal coded data** – encoding of key data elements (discrete problems, allergies, medications) (MU1, 2)
- **Structured & coded to industry standard** – Continuity of Care Document (CCD), Consult Note, Operative Note, etc.



**Introduction**

**Background**

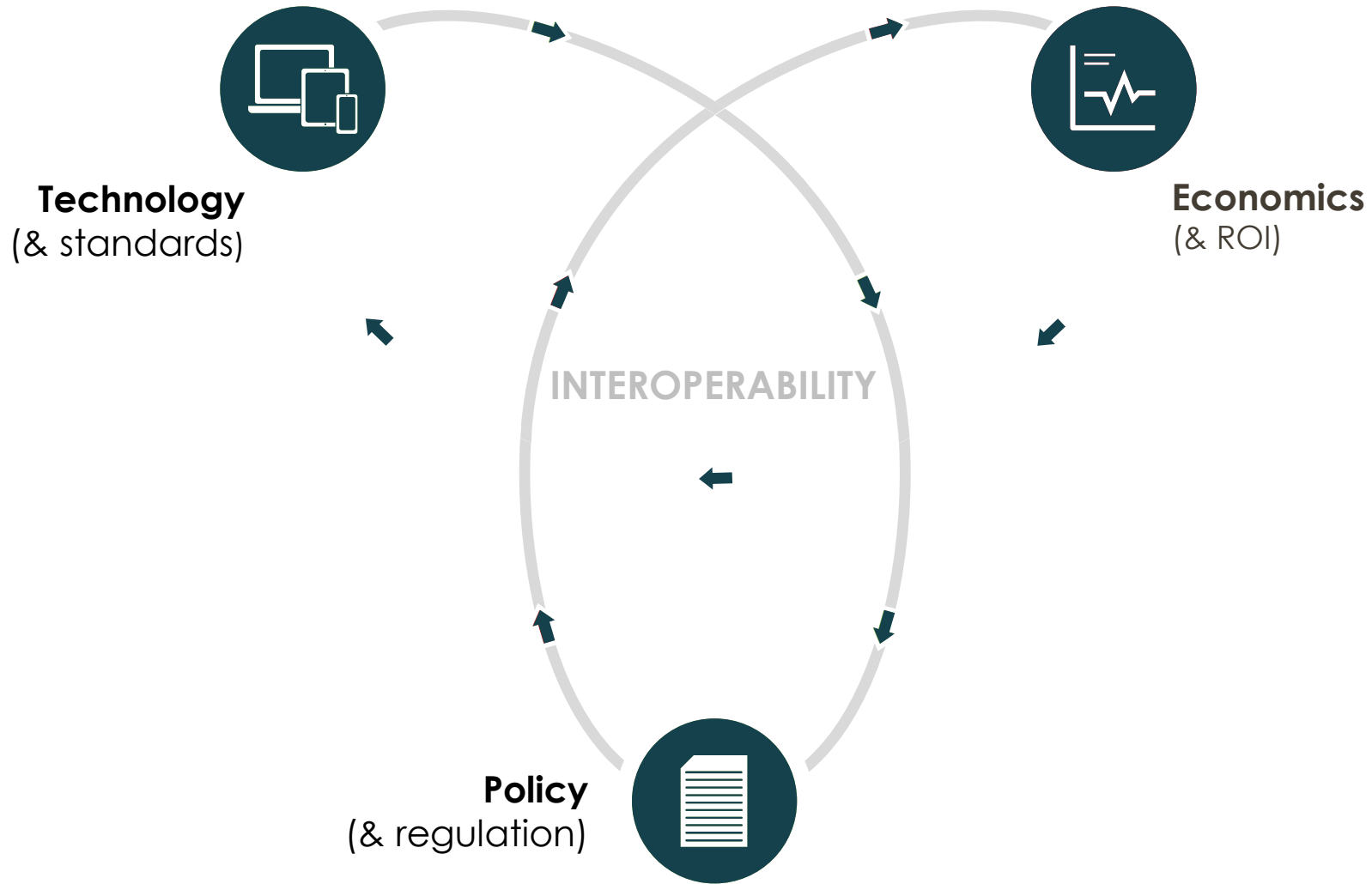
**Standards/Industry Consensus**

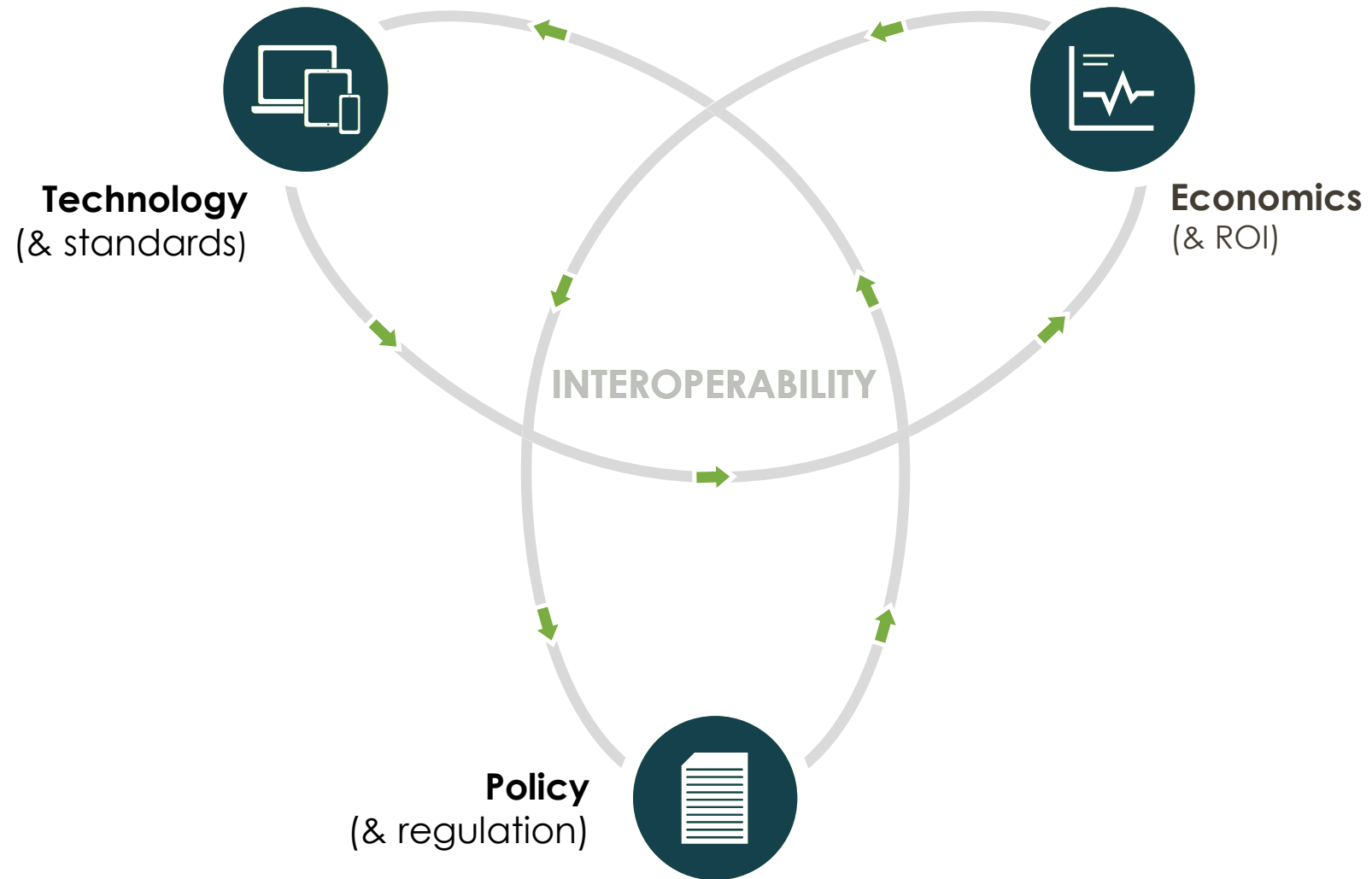
**Moving to Implementation**

**Conclusion**

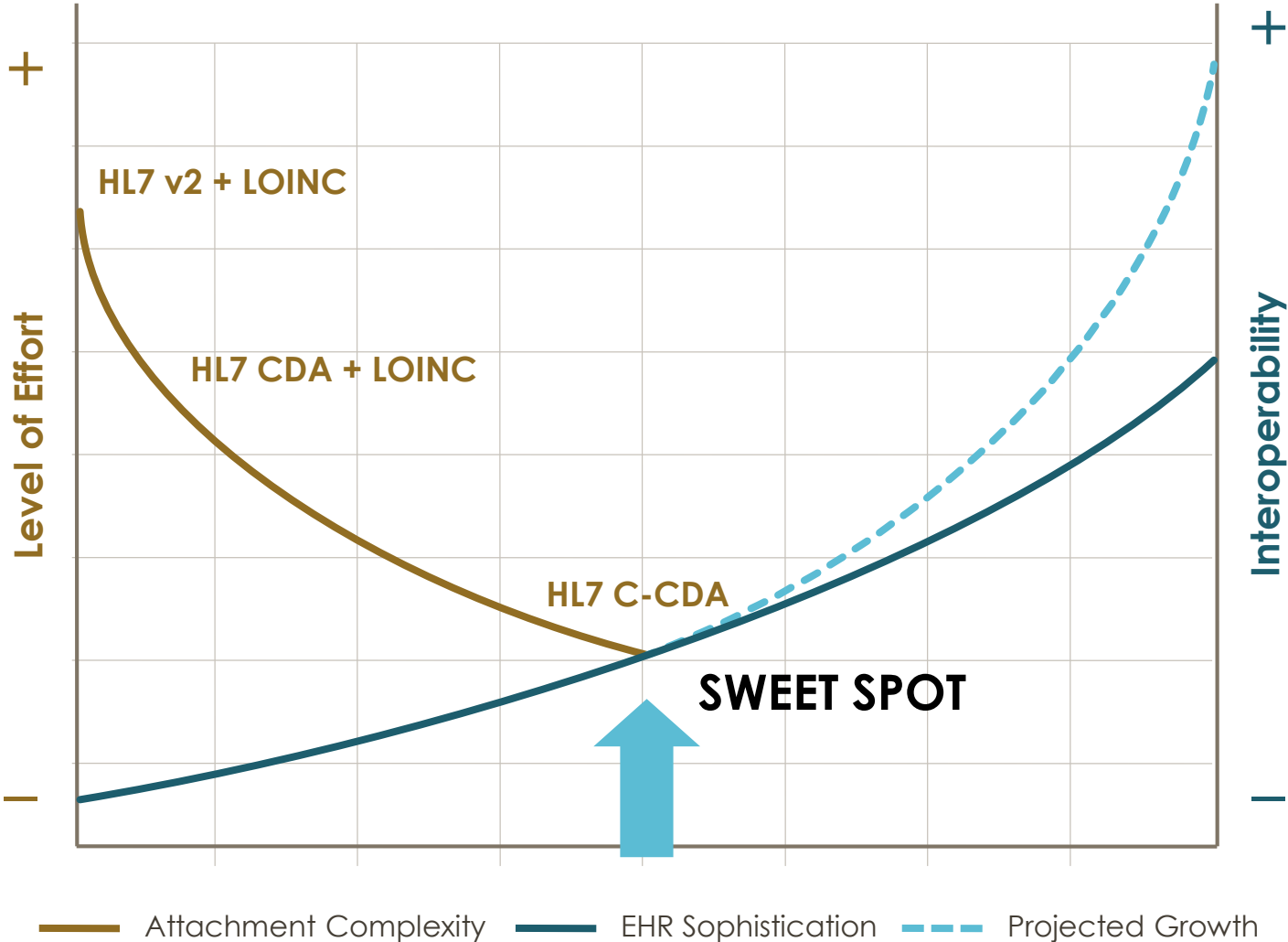
- Why Now?
- Opportunities to Get Started

**Discussion and Questions**





# Why Attachments, Why Now?



## Turn-around

- Reduced time to payment
- Reduced number of claim denials

## Materials

- Physical storage (e.g., secure rooms, file cabinets, boxes)
- Materials (e.g., paper, envelopers, postage)
- Scanner/Fax machines usage

## Labor

- Locate and submit information
- Coordinate mail room
- Monitor claims status
- Train for manual processing



## Unsolicited Use Case

- PMS creates X12 837 claim, with **attachment control number (ACN)**
- PMS creates **X12 275** additional information message with ACN
- PMS **populates 275**
  - **Associates clinical note/additional information with claim**
  - **Inserts CDA** with document type code ("what kind of document is this")
  - **Includes ACN**
- PMS sends **X12 837 & X12 275** with CDA attachment concurrently

”

## Solicited Use Case

- PMS creates X12 837 claim, ~~with attachment control number (ACN)~~
- Payer returns **X12 277 Request for Information**
  - **With ACN**
  - **With document type code** corresponding to the requested information
- **PMS parses the 277 RFI**
- PMS creates X12 275 additional information message
- PMS populates 275
  - Associates clinical note/additional information with claim
  - Inserts CDA with document type code ("what kind of document is this")
  - Includes ACN
- PMS sends ~~X12 837 & X12 275~~ with CDA attachment ~~concurrently~~

## Solicited Use Case with Clearinghouse

- PMS creates X12 837 claim and submits through Clearinghouse
- Payer returns X12 277 Request for Information to Clearinghouse
  - With ACN
  - With document type code corresponding to the requested information
- **Clearinghouse queries provider** for requested documentation, method is dependent on the business relationship (proprietary, FHIR, other).
- **Provider returns requested information** (CDA, PDF, Word, etc.)
- Clearinghouse creates X12 275 additional information message
- Clearinghouse populates 275
  - Associates clinical note/additional information with claim
  - CDA with document type code (“what kind of document is this”)
  - ACN
- Clearinghouse sends 275 to Payer

## Where Does The CDA Come From?

- Certified EMRs can create a Summarization of Episode Note or Continuity of Care Document (CCD)
- Certified EMRs may also create CDA Discharge Summaries, Consult Notes, etc.
- Some transcription vendors can also create CDA notes
- Off the shelf solutions can “scan-to-CDA”
- Other systems (like a PMS) can be modified to create minimally structured or unstructured CDA documents from existing content

## How does the PMS Associate the note with the claim?

**All use cases require association of the right information with the claim or the request for more information**

### **Low-tech:**

- PMS displays request:
  - Patient name
  - Date of encounter
  - Type of information (summary, consult note, etc.)
- Staff locates information (transcribed, in EMR, lab report, etc.)
  - Prints
  - Scans to PMS to be inserted into CDA

## How does the PMS Associate the note with the claim?

**All use cases require association of the right information with the claim or the request for more information**

### **Higher-tech:**

- PMS conveys request/query to EMR:
  - Patient name
  - Date of encounter
  - Type of information (summary, consult note, etc.)
- EMR returns requested information or a “not found”

## How does the PMS Associate the note with the claim?

**All use cases require association of the right information with the claim or the request for more information**

### **Highest-tech:**

- PMS conveys request/query to document management/medical record locator:
  - Patient name
  - Date of encounter
  - Type of information (summary, consult note, etc.)
- Record locator
  - Searches indexed information from EMR, lab, Medical Records (transcription), etc.
  - Returns requested information or a “not found”

## Assumptions

- Strong ROI across stakeholders for:
  - Claims
  - Prior authorization
  - Referral
- Audit use case requirements differ
  - Patient-centricity
  - Authentication/non-repudiation
- Orchestrating and implementing claims
  - Simpler
  - Builds basis for prior authorization and referral



## **Cost to implement – providers**

- Provider infrastructure varies
- EHR capacity to manage notes varies
- Most providers lack central index to longitudinal record

## **Cost to implement – payers**

- Unstructured
- Structured

## **ROI data – positive, but spotty**

Live software coding events where FHIR applications and the FHIR standard itself are tested.

The Attachments track demonstrated using FHIR RESTful web services and FHIR resources vs. X12 to request and send attachments

FHIR attachment demonstrations have also been performed at WEDI events



## Education

- HL7 Tutorials on CDA, FHIR
- CAQH Webinars on attachments (2017-2018)
- WEDI conferences

## Proof of Concept Connectathons

- HL7, 3x/year, CDA and FHIR
- Ad hoc payer connectathons, future, possibly Da Vinci

## Pilots (to production)

- Interest in the payer & clearinghouse communities
- What is the level of interest within HATA, among PMS vendors?

## Discussion & Questions