IN TECHNATIONCA

TECHNATION Health Interoperability and Standards Committee Position Paper

TECHNATION Health is the health division of TECHNATION (formerly ITAC). It represents Canadian information and communication technology (ICT) firms that provide products and services in the healthcare sector. The TECHNATION Health Interoperability and Standards Committee (ISC) has provided updated thinking on statements made in the [2016 ISC Position Paper](#) and the [2021 Interoperability white paper](#).

1) Organizations that develop EHRs or HIEs should strive to use the same standards for the same type of data exchange. As noted in the white paper, this also requires these organizations to strive to have the same architecture and business/technical requirements that impact the design of standards implementation guides.

2) Canadian jurisdictions should prefer standards that are commercially established internationally, particularly those established in the U.S. and EU.

3) Canadian jurisdictions should invest in AI technologies that can overcome some of the "last mile" business and technical barriers to interoperability, such as using AI scribes and LLMs to translate spoken language into structured, codified, data.

4) Canadian public healthcare Requests for Proposals (RFPs) should mandate compliance with interoperability standards on procured software systems. Specifically, TECHNATION supports mandating demonstrable interoperability through conformance testing.

5) Normalizing interoperability standards across Canada and harmonizing these standards with the U.S. and EU will greatly increase the number of solutions available for provinces to deploy while at the same time lowering the cost to customize these solutions for each province. Aligning Canadian interoperability standards with the U.S. and EU will have the added benefit of expanding the export market for innovative Canadian healthcare solutions.

6) Canadian governments should establish a foundational set of information sharing best practices amongst healthcare providers/organizations, technology developers, and other industry stakeholders to facilitate seamless sharing of electronic health information between systems. Introducing these provisions can yield significant benefits in enhancing interoperability and the exchange of electronic health information.