IHE Work Item Proposal (Short)

# Proposed Work Item: Sharing of Verifiable Health Links

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Date: 04 July 2024

Version: 1.0.0

Domain: ITI

# The Problem

There are many upcoming business use cases that need to generate, share and retrieve content from Verifiable Health Links.

WHO’s IPS for Pilgrimage, Canada’s implementation in New Brunswick and more upcoming use cases, are leveraging the exchange of Patient Summary using a Person-Mediated Access approach that exchange data using QR codes embedded with Verifiable Health Links.

The transactions needed to generate and access the Verifiable Health Links and the corresponding clinical data, can be included in an integration profile within the IHE ITI domain to create a consistent approach across various implementations that can be tested for compliance.

The new integration profile can also evolve to potentially include cross-profile considerations of grouping Verifiable Health Links with other standards and profiles such as MHD for document exchange, PCF/BPPC for consent, or digital signatures for added security.

# Key Use Case

A person wishing to share their data, requests the server for a verifiable health link to be generated. Note, that the data intended to be shared, can be any resource that is accessible by the consumer; it could be a collection of health records, FHIR bundles, lab results, patient summary, etc.

Once the link is generated, the person shares it with the intended consumer either as a link or as a QR code.

The consumer scans the code or clicks the link, to access the data. If a pin was set, the consumer enters the pin, in order to access the data. And if the link to the data had expired, the consumer receives the error.

# Standards & Systems

[HL7 SMART Health Links](https://build.fhir.org/ig/HL7/smart-health-cards-and-links/links-specification.html) , FHIR

Future consideration:

* MHD, PCF/BPPC, JWS, JWK, and more.
* DSG(j) including the ETSI series such as:
  + JAdES <https://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_ts/119100_119199/11918201/01.01.01_60/ts_11918201v010101p.pdf>
  + XaDES <https://www.w3.org/TR/XAdES/>
* EU and ETSI Trust Standards
  + Trusted Lists <https://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_ts/119600_119699/119612/01.01.01_60/ts_119612v010101p.pdf>
  + Gaia-X <https://eclipse.dev/xfsc/traincd/traincd/>
* Decentralized Identifiers for PK master lists <https://www.w3.org/TR/did-core/>

# Discussion

Due to its extensive expertise in healthcare standards and interoperability, IHE is uniquely positioned to be the appropriate authority to integrate this increasingly common use case and be the owner of the specifications for the Sharing of Verifiable Health Links.

The work of drafting a new integration profile started and is currently in progress. We are proposing leveraging this draft for collaborative review and subsequent incorporation into the IHE ITI domain. This will enable standardized international implementations and testing across multiple Connectathon events.