**Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise**



**IHE <Domain Name> (<Domain Acronym>)**

**Technical Framework**

**Volume 4**

**<Domain Acronym> TF-4**

**National Extensions**

**Revision <x.0> - Final Text**

**<Month xx, 20xx>**

**Please verify you have the most recent version of this document,** which is published [here](http://www.ihe.net/Technical_Frameworks/).

CONTENTS

[1 Introduction 4](#_Toc31371390)

[1.1 Introduction to IHE 4](#_Toc31371391)

[1.2 Intended Audience 4](#_Toc31371392)

[1.3 Overview of Volume 4 4](#_Toc31371393)

[1.4 Comment Process 5](#_Toc31371394)

[1.5 Copyright Licenses 5](#_Toc31371395)

[1.5.1 Copyright of Base Standards 5](#_Toc31371396)

[1.5.1.1 DICOM (Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine) 5](#_Toc31371397)

[1.5.1.2 HL7 (Health Level Seven) 5](#_Toc31371398)

[1.5.1.3 LOINC (Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes) 6](#_Toc31371399)

[1.5.1.4 SNOMED CT (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine -- Clinical Terms) 6](#_Toc31371400)

[1.6 Trademark 6](#_Toc31371403)

[1.7 Disclaimer Regarding Patent Rights 6](#_Toc31371404)

[1.8 History of Document Changes 7](#_Toc31371405)

[2 Overview of National Extensions to the Technical Framework 8](#_Toc31371406)

[2.1 Scope of National Extensions 8](#_Toc31371407)

[2.2 Process for Developing National Extensions 8](#_Toc31371408)

[2.3 Process for Proposing Revisions to the Technical Framework 9](#_Toc31371409)

[3 National Extensions for <Country Name or IHE Organization> 10](#_Toc31371410)

[Appendices 11](#_Toc31371411)

[Appendix A – <Appendix Title> 12](#_Toc31371412)

[A.1 <Title> 12](#_Toc31371413)

[A.1.1 <Title> 12](#_Toc31371414)

[Appendix B – <Appendix Title> 13](#_Toc31371415)

[B.1 <Title> 13](#_Toc31371416)

[B.1.1 <Title> 13](#_Toc31371417)

[Glossary 14](#_Toc31371418)

*<Authors’ instructions:*

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To maintain consistency across domains, the format and structure (order) of this document (of any Technical Framework document) must not be changed or altered in any way.

Use of capitalization: Please follow standard English grammar rules – only proper nouns and names are upper case. For example, “Modality Actor” is upper case, but “an actor which fulfills the role of a modality” is lower case. Do not use upper case to emphasize a word/topic.>

<Additional guidance is available on the IHE Wiki at <http://wiki.ihe.net/index.php?title=Writing_Technical_Frameworks_and_Supplements>. This guidance is especially useful for first time authors.>

# Introduction

This document, Volume 4, of the IHE <Domain Name> (<Domain Acronym>) Technical Framework describes the country-based extensions to specific <Domain Acronym> transactions and content modules.

## Introduction to IHE

Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) is an international initiative to promote the use of standards to achieve interoperability among health information technology (HIT) systems and effective use of electronic health records (EHRs). IHE provides a forum for care providers, HIT experts and other stakeholders in several clinical and operational domains to reach consensus on standards-based solutions to critical interoperability issues.

The primary output of IHE is system implementation guides, called IHE profiles. IHE publishes each profile through a well-defined process of public review and Trial Implementation and gathers profiles that have reached Final Text status into an IHE Technical Framework, of which this volume is a part.

For more general information regarding IHE, refer to [www.ihe.net](http://www.ihe.net). It is strongly recommended that, prior to reading this volume, the reader familiarizes themselves with the concepts defined in the [*IHE Technical Frameworks General Introduction*](http://ihe.net/Technical_Frameworks/#GenIntro).

## Intended Audience

The intended audience of IHE Technical Frameworks Volume 4 is:

* Those interested in integrating healthcare information systems and workflows on an international or country basis
* IT departments of healthcare institutions
* Technical staff of vendors participating in the IHE initiative
* Experts involved in standards development

## Overview of Volume 4

This volume contains information about the scope of national extensions to the transactions and/or content modules defined in the IHE <Domain Name> <(Domain Acronym)> Technical Framework. Section 2 describes the permitted scope of national extensions and the process by which national IHE initiatives can propose such extensions for approval by the IHE Technical Committee and documentation in the IHE Technical Framework. Section 3 and beyond describe the national extensions, per country, which have been defined. Examples include specific transaction or content changes for IHE Canada, IHE Germany, IHE Japan, etc.

## Comment Process

IHE International welcomes comments on this document and the IHE initiative. They can be submitted by sending an email to the co-chairs and secretary of the <Domain Name> domain committees at <Domain Acronym>@ihe.net.

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## History of Document Changes

This section provides a brief summary of changes and additions to this document.

*<The author/technical committee will complete the Change Summary column each time that the document is re-published as final text. The IHE Documentation Specialist will complete the Date and Document Revision columns.>*

| Date | Document Revision | Change Summary |
| --- | --- | --- |
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# Overview of National Extensions to the Technical Framework

The goal of IHE is to promote implementation of standards-based solutions to improve workflow and access to information in support of optimal patient care. To that end, IHE encourages the development of IHE National Deployment Committees to address issues specific to local health systems, policies and traditions of care. The role of these organizations and information about how they are formed is available at <http://www.ihe.net/Governance/#National_Deployment>.

## Scope of National Extensions

National extensions to the IHE Technical Framework are allowed in order to address specific local healthcare needs and promote the implementation of the IHE Technical Frameworks. They may add (though not relax) requirements that apply to the Technical Framework generally or to specific transactions, actors and integration profiles. Some examples of appropriate national extensions are:

* Require support of character sets and national languages
* Provide translation of IHE concepts or data fields from English into other national languages
* Extensions of patient or provider information to reflect policies regarding privacy and confidentiality
* Changes to institutional information and financial transactions to conform to national health system payment structures and support specific local care practices

All national extensions shall include concise descriptions of the local need they are intended to address. They shall identify the precise transactions, actors, integration profiles and sections of the Technical Framework to which they apply. And they must provide technical detail equivalent to that contained in the Technical Framework in describing the nature of the extension.

## Process for Developing National Extensions

National extension documents are to be developed, approved and incorporated in the Technical Framework in coordination with the IHE Technical Committee and its annual cycle of activities in publishing and maintaining the Technical Framework. The first prerequisite for developing a national extension document is to establish a national IHE initiative and make information regarding its composition and activities available to other IHE initiatives.

Established IHE national initiatives may draft a document describing potential national extensions containing the general information outlined above. This draft document is submitted to the IHE Technical Committee for review and comment. Based on discussion with the Technical Committee, they prepare and submit finalized version of the document in appropriate format for incorporation into the Technical Framework. The publication of National Extensions is to be coordinated with the annual publication cycle of other Technical Framework documents in the relevant domain.

## Process for Proposing Revisions to the Technical Framework

In addition to developing national extension documents to be incorporated in the Technical Framework, national IHE initiatives may also propose revisions to the global Technical Framework. These may take the form of changes to existing transactions, actors or integration profiles or the addition of new ones. Such general changes would be subject to approval by the IHE Technical and Planning Committees.

National extensions that are minor in scope, such as suggestions for clarifications or corrections to documentation, may be submitted throughout the year via the ongoing errata tracking process, called the [Change Proposal Process](http://wiki.ihe.net/index.php?title=Change_Proposal_Process).

More substantial revision proposals, such as proposals to add new integration profiles or major country-based extensions, should be submitted directly to the IHE Technical and Planning Committees via the process for submitting new proposals called the [Profile Proposal Process.](http://wiki.ihe.net/index.php?title=Profile_Proposal_Process)

# National Extensions for <Country Name or IHE Organization>

The national extensions documented in this section shall be used in conjunction with the definitions of integration profiles, actors and transactions provided in Volumes 1 through 3 of the IHE <Domain Acronym> Technical Framework. This section includes extensions and restrictions to effectively support the regional practice of healthcare in <Country Name>. It may also translate a number of English terms to ensure correct interpretation of requirements of the <Domain Acronym> Technical Framework.

<See the IHE Technical Framework [Supplement Template](ftp://ftp.ihe.net/DocumentPublication/DocumentTemplates/Technical_Framework_Supplement_Template/) for the structure of the rest of the sections. The entire section is repeated, as needed, for each set of additional extensions.>

Appendices

*<This appendices section is used for appendices specific to Volume 4>*

*<Use appendices to include large amounts of material which would disrupt the flow or readability of the general text>*

*<Each appendix should very explicitly state at the beginning whether the appendix is normative or informative.>*

*<Important Note: Snippets of code samples can be located in an appendix. However, complete code samples or messages should be submitted as separate files and stored onto the IHE ftp server at:* [*ftp://ftp.ihe.net/TF\_Implementation\_Material/<Domain*](ftp://ftp.ihe.net/TF_Implementation_Material/%3cDomain) *Acronym.>*

# Appendix A – <Appendix Title>

## A.1 <Title>

Appendix A.1 text.

### A.1.1 <Title>

Appendix A.1.1 text.

# Appendix B – <Appendix Title>

## B.1 <Title>

Appendix B.1 text

### B.1.1 <Title>

Appendix B.1.1 text

# Glossary

IHE Glossary terms are maintained via the [*Standards Knowledge Management Tool*](http://www.skmtglossary.org/) (SKMT).

SKMT contains IHE Glossary Terms from Final Text and Trial Implementation IHE profiles. Terms from Public Comment profiles are added once the profile is published for Trial Implementation.

The current published version of the IHE Glossary ([Appendix D](https://www.ihe.net/resources/technical_frameworks/#GenIntro) to the *IHE Technical Frameworks General Introduction*) contains IHE Glossary terms as of the publication date of the document. Always refer to the [SKMT](http://www.skmtglossary.org/) for the most up-to-date list of IHE Glossary terms.

Further information about SKMT can be found on the IHE Wiki [here](https://wiki.ihe.net/index.php/Standards_Knowledge_Management_Tool_(SKMT)).