



Composite HealthCare System (CHCS) Interface Policy

2002

PREFACE

The purpose of the Interface Policy is to outline the procedures required in defining and implementing new or modified interfaces involving CHCS. Recent security issues have spawned critical analysis for clinical system integration.

An interface request is a request for the sharing of patient level and other types of data in the production database of CHCS with another Automated Information System (AIS). To evaluate and manage these often-complex requests, an Interface Analysis Statement (IAS) must be submitted to the CHCS Project Office for approval.

The CHCS Project Office will review the IAS to address funding plan, program and system integrity impacts, cost and schedule impacts, and patient safety requirements. After approval, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be prepared by the requesting activity before work is initiated on development of an approved interface. The Interface MOA is an agreement between the interfacing AIS Project Officers. It defines each AIS Project Officer's roles and responsibilities in developing the interface to include the integrated interface's development schedule.

INTERFACE ANALYSIS STATEMENT (IAS) For Interface Between CHCS and <Requesting System>

1.0 Introduction (Brief overview of interface)

1.1 Objective:

Identify the new or changed user and/or system requirement that necessitate this new or modified interface. Specify whether any new user requirement(s) identified has been validated, approved, and funded by the MHS Information Management (IM) Directorate.

1.2 Scope:

Identify the new system involved in the interface, the type of data to be exchanged, and the direction the data will flow.

1.3 Interface Need:

Describe the need for a new or modified interface. Clearly describe the new or changed user and/or system requirement(s) upon which this interface request is based. Include a high level discussion of costs versus benefits.

1.4 Interface Definition:

Describe the technical aspects of the interface to include:

- *Method used to exchange data, e.g., Health Level 7 (HL7) transaction, structure query language (SQL) query or through a special purpose interface,*
- *Affected data elements, e.g., specify the data elements to be exchanged and whether these elements will be sent, received, or both for each interfacing AIS,*
- *Impact to existing interfaces involving either of the two interfacing AISs,*
- *Physical communications used to transmit the data, e.g., transmission control protocol/Internet protocol such as TCP/IP, Digital Equipment Corporation Network (DECENT), etc.,*
- *Number of interface connections, e.g., single host, multiple hosts, etc.*

2.0 Applicable Documents:

List applicable documents by full title, revision, and date. Documents to include are: requirement documents, design documents, existing Interface Control Documents (ICDs), standards, Security documents, HIPAA compliance documents, Government documents, and other pertinent documents related to the IAS. Referenced documents not readily available through normal Government stocking activities must be identified by the source and location or submitted as an attachment to this IAS.

3.0 Concept of Operations

3.1 <New System>

3.1.1 Production Performance Impact

Provide an impact assessment of the interface on the production performance of CHCS, e.g., number of transactions per unit time, volume of data sent/received, etc. Include possible mitigation strategies for potential adverse system performance.

3.1.2 Capacity Planning

Identify capacity requirements for this interface and resultant impact on CHCS, e.g., use of the disk space, communication bandwidth, etc.

3.1.3 Patient Safety

Identify patient safety and data integrity of patient records protections for CHCS, e.g., extensive testing of interface system, use of data validation procedures, etc.

3.1.4 Site Network Management

Identify site network impact and steps taken to maintain the integrity of CHCS production operations.

3.1.5 Security

Identify the security standards to which each system is required to conform and the sensitivity of the data to be exchanged as these issues impact CHCS, e.g., command and control (C2) certified, etc. Also include any documentation related to: CON, IATO, Permission to Test, DITSCAP, 508 Compliance and/or other Command related requests and documentation.

3.1.6 Configuration Management (CM)

Identify the interface's impact to CHCS CM. Describe how CM baselines will be maintained for the interfacing systems.

3.1.7 Project Schedule

Describe at a high level the Interface project schedule.

3.1.8 Project Costs

Describe at a high level the Interface project cost and the source of funding for the interface.

3.2 Risk Assessment

Provide a general discussion of potential risks involved in implementation of this interface. List each potential risk with associated mitigation strategy. Include risks to the operation of other interfaces with which these systems currently interface and the need to coordinate with other changes currently being made to these systems.

3.3 General Notes:

Provide general information that aids in the understanding of the impact statement not covered in any other section.

3.4 Appendices

Provide supplemental material to support the Interface that does not logically fit in any other section. Information provided may help facilitate document maintenance. At a minimum, include a list abbreviations and acronyms.

3.5 Supplemental Figures

Provide explanatory and supplemental graphical information to support the IAS. Information provided may help facilitate document maintenance. Examples may include system diagrams, component block diagrams, data element diagrams, data/work flow diagrams, flow charts, etc.

3.6 Supplemental Tables

Provide explanatory and supplemental tabular information to support the IAS. Information provided may help facilitate document maintenance. Examples may include tables of data elements, cross-reference tables, contract line item number (CLN) tables, configuration item tables, etc.

3.7 Points of Contact

3.7.1 Primary Point of Contact

AIS Project Officer proposing this interface: identify name, phone number, email address, and mailing address.

3.7.2 Alternate Primary Point of Contact

Identify Alternate POC name, phone number, email address, and mailing address. Alternate POC could be the Project Officer for the other component AIS of this interface.

Approvals:

1. MTF CIO (print) _____ DATE _____

Signature _____

2. Local DAA (print) _____ DATE _____

Signature _____

3. Service Representative (print) _____ DATE _____

Signature _____

4. Service CIO (print) _____ DATE _____

Signature _____