

# What is Care Connect?

**'Care Connect'** is an umbrella term for a collection of interoperability standards and requirements for connecting clinical systems based on using the HL7 FHIR Resource Model. The term 'Care Connect' was coined out of INTEROPen vendor-led workshops.

In summary 'Care Connect' is a collection of activities and associated documents software deliverables and artefacts for system integration, at a clinical and technical level.

The aim of 'Care Connect' is to enable clinical vendors and NHS Digital to engage in the development and use of national standards and requirements.

The consistent exchange of information will empower health and care professionals to make better use of patient data across organisational boundaries and across different clinical contexts. It will enable them to make timely and considered decisions about a patient's immediate and/or ongoing care. This in turn leads to better outcomes.

'Care Connect' is evolving as the community, including INTEROPen, NHS England and NHS Digital more clearly understand the business and clinical context, content and priorities.

## 'Care Connect' is...

**'Care Connect' profiles** are individual 'resource level' curated FHIR resources. These are the building blocks for Care Connect records, documents, diagnostic and appointment messages.

**'Care Connect' Message Specifications** are message structures which suppliers and provider organisations will make available from their systems via an Open 'Care Connect' API. GPConnect and potentially future projects such as MHConnect, CommunityConnect will all be using Care Connect Profiles and Message Specifications.

**Care Connect Reference Implementation** shows how all the Care Connect components link together.

## 'Care Connect' is not...

- A programme or project in its own right on the NHS Digital Project Portfolio.
- A contractually agreed Clinical Deliverable, e.g. national ability to book appointments with a formal engagement approach with suppliers for day to day activity.
- An existing contractual arrangement, e.g. a GPSoC arrangement or Framework Agreement
- An existing, long standing and well-defined engagement processes with Clinical Consumers and Clinical Suppliers:
- An incentive fund to distribute monies for development to Trusts or Vendors etc
- A programme that provides Accreditation and Compliance processes for assuring compliance