

# Publishing HL7<sup>®</sup> FHIR<sup>®</sup> Profiles: HL7 UK Policy & Process

21st March 2018

## Introduction

### Scope

The scope of this Policy & Process is the HL7<sup>®</sup> FHIR<sup>®</sup> profiles published by HL7 UK. It governs the actions of HL7 UK in publishing profiles, and states requirements and expectations that apply to organizations supplying profiles to be published by HL7 UK.

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### Purpose

HL7 UK publishes FHIR profiles as a service to support adoption and implementation in the UK. This Policy and Process sets out the principles and methods applied by HL7 UK in publishing profiles.

HL7 UK works with partner organizations (including but not limited to INTEROPen and NHS Digital) who create FHIR profiles and wish to publish them through HL7 UK, and a key aim of this Policy and Process is to clarify the responsibilities of HL7 UK and partner organizations respectively in the process of publishing profiles.

*For clarity: this policy and process is intended to clarify and document the distinctive role of HL7 UK, and does not replace or govern activities undertaken by other organizations.*

## Principles

The following principles have been adopted for the process of publishing FHIR profiles:

1. We accept FHIR profiles for publication in order to support interoperability in UK
2. FHIR profiles published by HL7 UK are intended to reflect and share consensus between organizations actively involved in implementation.
3. Profiles published by HL7 UK are published openly and intended for reuse.
4. The publication process shall be straightforward so that use is encouraged.
5. HL7 UK does not warrant the quality or clinical safety of any published profile.
6. HL7 UK reserves the right to reject profiles that, in its reasonable opinion, it regards as unsuitable.

## Process

A FHIR profile passes through a number of stages during its lifetime:

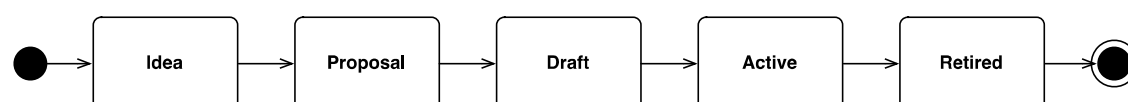


Figure 1: Profile lifecycle

At each stage, HL7 UK will provide support to the submitter to facilitate publication. Submitters may engage with HL7 UK at either the Idea or Proposal stage.

## Idea

Ideas are informal suggestions for profiles that may be useful (*e.g.* ‘would a profile for an automatic blood pressure observation be useful?’)

A submitter may email HL7 UK via TC Chair ([tcchair@hl7.org.uk](mailto:tcchair@hl7.org.uk)) with a brief outline of their idea including the suggested profiles.

HL7 UK will advise on how the suggestion could be implemented and signpost any other relevant work already being done within the UK or internationally. HL7 UK aims to provide advice within 1 week.

## Proposal

Proposals are work in progress, from initial business analysis through to creation of FHIR resources such as StructureDefinitions, ValueSets and ImplementationGuides.

Submitter is responsible for elaborating an idea into a proposal. They are also responsible for collating suitable evidence that:

- quality criteria are met (*for example:* <https://nhsconnect.github.io/fhir-policy/index.html>)
- clinical safety has been evaluated
- profiles are technically correct
- so far as is possible, consistent with other profiles in use within the UK
- profile is available for use through an open license (Apache 2.0 preferred).

HL7 UK will provide a feature branch on GitHub to host the proposal as it is developed. HL7 UK aims to support submitters to move from mature proposal to draft in 4 weeks.

## Draft

Draft profiles are ready for review by the wider community.

Submitter is responsible for requesting that profiles are made available to review by submitting a pull request on GitHub and emailing HL7 UK via TC Chair.

HL7 UK will promote a proposal to draft by publishing the profile for review via GitHub and [fhir.hl7.org.uk](http://fhir.hl7.org.uk); HL7 UK will also notify the community via the HL7 UK members’ mailing list and the HL7 UK twitter account. The review period will be at least 3 weeks, but may be longer for more complex profiles.

Submitter is responsible for reviewing feedback and amending the profile until a consensus is reached. HL7 UK will arbitrate in the event that consensus cannot be reached.

HL7 UK will then uplift the amended draft as an active profile on GitHub and [fhir.hl7.org.uk](http://fhir.hl7.org.uk); HL7 UK will also notify the community via the HL7 UK members’ mailing list and the HL7 UK twitter account.

## Active

Active profiles are being used within the UK.

Submitter is responsible for monitoring usage of the profile and notifying HL7 UK when the profile is no longer believed to be in use. In addition, an annual survey of HL7 UK members will be conducted to determine which profiles are in use.

When profiles that are no longer in use have been identified, HL7 UK will confirm this by contacting the community via the HL7 UK members’ mailing list and the HL7 UK twitter

account. HL7 UK will then mark the profile as retired on GitHub and fhir.hl7.org.uk; HL7 UK will also notify the community via the HL7 UK members' mailing list and the HL7 UK twitter account.

### Retired

Retired profiles are no longer used within the UK.

*HL7 UK Board, 21st March 2018*