

## Medicaid and Exchange IT Architecture Guidance: Framework for Collaboration with State Grantees

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have created a set of integrated architecture technical documents to guide the information technology (IT) development of the Medicaid and Exchange programs. Two sources provide the framework for this guidance, the Medicaid IT Architecture (MITA) and the newly developed Exchange Reference Architecture foundation.

With MITA, CMS is establishing a national framework of enabling technologies and processes that support improved administration for the Medicaid program and foster integrated business and IT transformation across the Medicaid enterprise. With Exchange Reference Architecture foundation, CMS is informing the states about key architectural principles and guidelines that support the business of providing Medicaid and Exchange services. Included are IT principles, technology standards, IT governance, and identified areas where collaborative discussions are necessary to ensure the most effective and efficient environment for Medicaid and Exchange IT services.

### IT Guidance

The *Guidance for Exchange and Medicaid Information Technology (IT) Systems, Version 1.0* released on November 3, 2010, establishes the overarching IT architecture principles for the Medicaid and Exchange IT systems. The *Exchange Reference Architecture: Foundation Guidance* document introduces the scope and overall guidance of the Exchange Reference Architecture, including the Exchange Business Architecture, Information Architecture, and Technical Reference Architecture. The Foundation Guidance also introduces the Exchange Life Cycle (ELC) model and the collaborative Application Life Cycle Management (ALM) environment. It describes how detailed architecture supplements will open a dialogue with and communicate guidance to the Medicaid and Exchange stakeholders.

### Technical Guidance

MITA and a complementary set of Exchange Technical Reference Architecture (TRA) supplements jointly provide Medicaid and Exchange technical architecture guidance to enable secure, effective, and efficient Medicaid and Exchange IT system implementation. The Exchange TRA addresses challenging technology topics, including Infrastructure, Web Services, Data Exchange, and a Harmonized Security and Privacy Framework.

The first Exchange TRA supplement released to the states is the *Harmonized Security and Privacy Framework – Exchange TRA Supplement*.

### Exchange Life Cycle and Governance

CMS' governance approach ensures the effective use and oversight of the MITA and the Exchange Reference Architecture, and encompasses well-established processes from the published CMS Integrated Life Cycle (ILC) and the Exchange Life Cycle (a tailoring of the CMS ILC for use by states), as well as the collaborative ALM environment.

The first governance supplement released to the states is the *Collaborative Environment and Life Cycle Governance – Exchange Reference Architecture Supplement*.

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The set of current and future guidance documentation, and any future iterations and supplements that incorporate additional direction described in any Final Rule, are a crucial source of information to the states. These guidance documents will facilitate effective state and federal communication and collaboration, which in turn will promote the successful implementation and operation of Medicaid and Exchange systems.