**Implementation Guide**

**From Rob Snelick 02/12/2014 -This is my viewpoint from the world of V2**

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| Conformance Profile: | A conformance profile is a constraint to either the underlying standard or another conformance profile normally specifying constraints on messages or documents[[1]](#footnote-1).  Unfortunately, this kind of profile is not always declared explicitly (HL7), but implicitly (DICOM). |
| Message Profile: | A synonym for conformance profile however explicitly referring to a messaging standard such as HL7 V2.x. |
| Conformance Message Profile | Another synonym for conformance profile however explicitly referring to a messaging standard such as HL7 V2.x. |
| Implementation Guide: | An implementation guide is often created to organize a collection of conformance profiles for specifying a set of related interactions described in a use case or use cases. Implementation guides typically describe broader conformance requirements such as application behavior. Such requirements may include how a set of messages are to be used to enact certain application functionality among applications (actors). |
| Integration Profile: | An integration profile is an implementation guide and is the term used in the IHE Technical Frameworks. It describes the workflow for a specific use case. It combines actors and interactions facilitating base standards. |
| Profile | Generic term often used to refer to a conformance profile or integration profile. The context in which it is used is important to determine what is meant. |

Broadly speaking implementation guides and integration profiles are *containers* for conformance profiles. In short, implementation guides and integration profiles describe the use case(s), the applications (actors) involved, and the workflow (including the transactions and interactions). Functional behavior can also be specified. Conformance profiles in the context of a messaging standard describe the requirements for a single interaction. An implementation guide or integration profile often describes numerous conformance profile definitions. For example, the IHE Patient Identification (PIX) integration profile defines a conformance profile for each of the HL7 V2 administration interactions (A01 – In-patient Admission, A04 – Outpatient Registration, A05 – In-patient Pre-admission, A08 – Patient Update, A40 – Merge Patient), the acknowledgement interaction (ACK – Acknowledgement), and the query/response interactions (Q23 – Query, and K23 – Response).

**Conformance**

**Conformance:** Conformance is defined as the fulfillment of a product, process, or service of specified requirements [ISO-17000, OASIS]. The concept of conformance is essential to any standard for providing an objective measure of how closely implementations satisfy the requirements defined in the standard.

## Conformance Profile Testing

Don’t see how this is different than conformance testing. You’re testing a system with respect to a set of requirements articulated in a specification (in this case, the conformance profile is the specification).

## Compliance

At least in the v2 profile world is a determination of whether one profile is compliance with another. For example, if you have a constrainable profile and you create an implementation profile, the implementation profile is said to be compliant with the constrainable profile if it is a proper constraint of the constrainable profile.

## Template

This is a CDA thing which to me is analogous to a conformance profile in V2.

## Other thoughts

--We should check the ECF as part of SAIF. I believe they have definitions of these terms (although if I recall I didn’t agree with them entirely).

--We should also check other domains and see what their definitions are. ISO and IEEE have definitions.

1. It can be applied to (web) services as well. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)