



# **Setting the World on FHIR: The Changing Landscape of Information Exchange in Healthcare**

Pharmacy Grand Rounds

2/25/2020

Hilary Teaford, PharmD, MHI, BCPS  
PGY2 Pharmacy Informatics Resident

# Objectives

1. Identify the advantages of HL7 FHIR® over other methods of information exchange in healthcare
2. Describe the core components of FHIR®
3. Explain the application of FHIR® to medication management

# Scenario: Anti-Seizure Medication Algorithm

You are providing medication-related expertise to a group building an algorithm to recommend the best anti-seizure medication for a patient considering the following factors:

Seizure characteristics	Comorbidities (i.e. obesity, kidney failure)	Lab tests (i.e. liver function enzymes)	Potential drug interactions
Current/attempted anti-epileptics	Pharmacogenomics	Insurance coverage	Allergies

Other requirements:

- Viewable via desktop and mobile device
- Other institutions can adopt and integrate their data

# Standard Syntax

## Description

Standard structure and format of exchanged data

## Analogy of Language:

English: Adjective-Noun

Spanish: Noun-Adjective

## Examples

- HL7 Version 2 (HL7v2)
- HL7 Version 3 (HL7v3)
- FHIR®



# Standard Vocabulary

## Description

Standard vocabulary to describe data

## Analogy of Language:

Cat (English)= Gato (Spanish)

Big (English) = Grande (Spanish)

## Examples

- ICD-10: Diagnosis codes
- RxNorm: Meds
- SNOMED-CT: Meds, med classes & other clinical terms

# Need Both Standard Syntax and Standard Vocabulary for Semantic Interoperability



## **Standard syntax without standard vocabulary**

- The grande gato crossed the street



## **Standard vocabulary without standard syntax**

- The cat big the street crossed



## **Standard syntax and standard vocabulary**

- The big cat crossed the street

# Visualizing Interoperability

EHR #1

Patient First Name	John
Patient Last Name	Doe
Date of Birth	1-22-1955
Medication	Levetiracetam 500 milligram tablet
Route	Orally
Frequency	Twice Daily
Reported By	Self

EHR #2

Patient Name	Smith, Jane
Birthday	1/21/1945
Medication	Keppra 250 mg oral tablet [2]
Route	PO
Frequency	Every Morning and Evening
Source	Patient-Reported



Name	DOB	Medication	Dose	Dose Unit	Route	Frequency	Brand	Informant
John Doe	01/22/1955	Levetiracetam	500	Mg	Oral	BID	0	Patient
Jane Smith	01/21/1945	Levetiracetam	500	Mg	Oral	BID	1	Patient

# Timeline of Health Level Seven (HL7) International Standards



# HL7 Version 2 Description and Example

MSH ^~\& EPIC^RDE TALYST PXMHSP ARZ  200200	<b>Pharmacy Encoded Order (RDE) Message Header</b>
PID   298989394^^^MC^MC  DOE^JOHN^^^MS.^^D  19550518 F  B 410 S SADDLE ST^^GILBERT^AZ^85233-6810^USA^L^^MARICOPA MARICOPA (999) 999- 4051^P^H^^^205^9974051~^NET^Internet^dDOE9999@yahoo.com  ENG  6-61-7865   N	<p><b>PID: Patient Identification</b></p>
PV1   IP ARZ PXMH 03 W IMC 3C^PX 328^28- P^PXMHSP^R^^^^^DEPID   20905670^MUNSTER^JULIA^^^^^PERID^^^^^PERID~15353460^JILL^H ANDER^G^^^^^PERID^^^^^PERID   15939758^MILLER^KATIE^M^^^^^PERID^^^^^PERID~153233460^JI LL^HANDER^G^^^^^PERID^^^^^PERID       20905670^MUNSTER^JULIA^^^^^PERID~15353460^JILL^H        20200207213055	<p><b>PV1: Patient Visit Segment</b></p>
ORC NW 2222592898234^EPC     ^2 times daily&0800,2000^20200208090000^R^ 22224849859832^ 20200208031057 IDMPROD21231796 ^MCKEEN^ANALISA^J^ 15723445^RINGER^SARA^A^^^^^PERID^^^^^PERID 15353460^JILL^HANDER^G ^^^^^PERID^^^^^PERID       ARZ MCH Arizona Hospital 5777 E MAYO BLVD^PHOENIX^AZ^85054-4502^ 515-6296^^^^^5156296 5777 E MAYO BLVD^PHOENIX^AZ^85054-4502^USA     I	<p><b>ORC: Common Order Segment</b></p>
RXE ^2 times daily&0800,2000^20200208090000^R^ E119989001^TOPIRAMATE 200 MG TABLET ^ADS^^^^^topiramate 200 mg tablet (TOPAMAX)  200  mg^mg 200 ^Administer on an empty stomach (1 hour before or 2 hours after eating).~^Swallow whole. Do NOT crush, chew, or split tablet.    1 Each^each  ^JILL^HANDER^G^    1	<p><b>RXE: Pharmacy Encoded Order Segment</b></p>
DISP ^TOPAMAX       ^ARZ PXMH TALYST-PYXIS LOAD	
RXR oral^oral	
RXC   E119989001^TOPIRAMATE	<b>RXR: Pharmacy Route Segment/ RXC: Pharmacy Component Order</b>
ZRX N 20020020202003 JZ2222592898234-3019    1   HAZARDOUS - Non-Antineoplastic \F\	
PPE 1 \F\ Disposal Haz  20200208090000	<b>ZRX: Custom Segment (Hazardous Banner)</b>

- Helps connect hospital systems
- Message-oriented
  - Example: Epic to carousel or Epic to Pyxis
- Cons
  - Extensive interface design needed
  - Lack of human readability without translation

\*\*Fictitious patients and users\*\*

# Timeline of Health Level Seven (HL7) International Standards



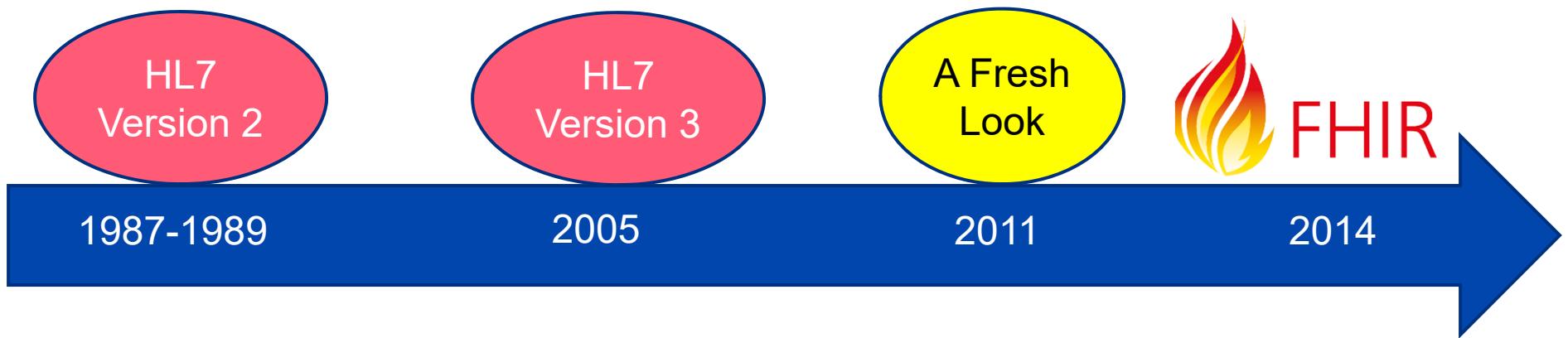
- Supports messaging **within** hospitals
- Well adopted
- Not well adopted

# Assessment Question

**Which of the following is true?**

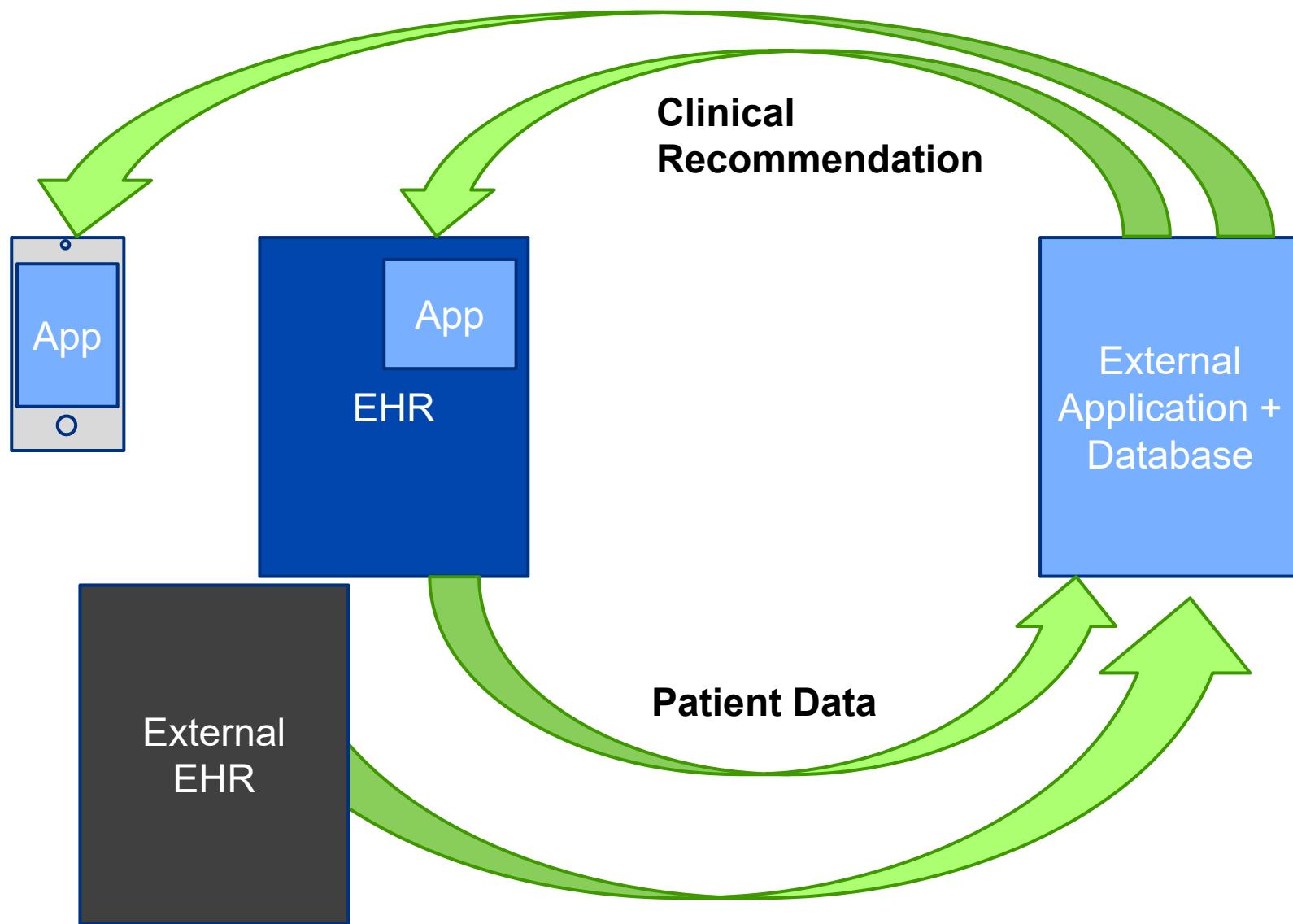
- A. HL7v2 was designed primarily for readability
- B. HL7v3 is not widely adopted
- C. RxNorm defines the structure of exchanged data
- D. HL7v2 was designed to support messaging between hospitals

# Timeline of Health Level Seven (HL7) International Standards



- Supports messaging **within** hospitals
- Well adopted
- Not well adopted

# Ideal State of Information Exchange Using an External Application



# Living Interoperability



Standardized way to describe ticketing information

Central place to view combined information

Anyone can write an app to pull ticket information

Modeling/forecasting to inform best time to buy

# The Promise of FHIR®

- **“Simplify implementation without sacrificing information integrity”**
  - Free documentation
  - Easy for developers to understand
- **“Plug and play” app integration**
  - Rich information at fingertips of patients and providers

## Next Steps

- Your team decides to build a FHIR® application

# Objectives

1. Identify the advantages of HL7 FHIR® over other methods of information exchange in healthcare
2. **Describe the core components of FHIR®**
3. Explain the application of FHIR® to medication management

# What is FHIR®?

## Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

- Fast= speed at which implementation occurs
- Healthcare= focus of FHIR®
- Interoperability standard for the exchange of healthcare information electronically
- Resources= building blocks of FHIR®

# FHIR® Resource Examples

## Non-Medication Related

- Patient
- Practitioner
- Schedule
- Encounter
- Procedure
- ServiceRequest
- Claim
- ResearchStudy

## Medication Related

- MedicationRequest
- MedicationAdministration
- MedicationDispense
- MedicationStatement
- Medication
- MedicationKnowledge
- Immunization
- ImmunizationEvaluation
- ImmunizationRecommendation



# FHIR® Example Resource

```
{  
  "resourceType": "MedicationStatement",  
  "id": "2672522",  
  "meta": {  
    "extension": [  
      {  
        "url": "http://hapifhir.io/fhir/StructureDefinition/resource-  
meta-source",  
        "valueUri": "#XGsJFAW1Ja74NLPf"  
      }  
    ],  
    "versionId": "1",  
    "lastUpdated": "2020-02-09T22:43:17.441+00:00"  
  },  
  "text": {  
    "gabapentin 600mg twice daily</div>"  
  },  
  "status": "active",  
  "medicationCodeableConcept": {  
    "coding": [  
      {  
        "system": "http://snomed.info/ct",  
        "code": "323021008"  
      }  
    ]  
  }  
}
```

Resource Identity

Standard Data

Human Readable  
Summary

# Extensions

- Ability to “extend” scope of base resources in a standard and defined way
- FHIR® resource always includes URL describing extension

## Examples:

Certainty of  
Allergy/Intolerance

Substance Exposure  
Risk

Diagnostic Report-  
Genetic Analysis

Relative Date Time



FHIR® Core-defined Extension Registry. <https://www.hl7.org/fhir/extensibility-registry.html>

# Profiles

- A specific set of customized base resources
  - Agreed upon syntax and vocabulary
  - Implementation guides specific to use case
- Example: US Core-MedicationRequest Profile Requirements
  - A status
  - An intent code
  - A medication (using RxNorm)
  - A patient
  - A date for when written
  - A prescriber

# What FHIR® Can Do

- Documents
  - Example: Care summary
- Messages
  - Example: Send lab results
- Services
  - Example: Clinical decision support
- Get Data via API
  - Example: Query data on mobile app



API: Application Programming Interface

FHIR® Overview – Clinicians. <http://hl7.org/fhir/overview-clinical.html>

©2016 MFMER | slide-23

# FHIR® is Executable: Example Operations

- Generate questionnaire
- Last N observations
- Fetch patient record
- Care gaps reports
- Submit claim resource
- Generate a document

## Example:

**GET[base]/Observation/\$lastn?patient=Patient/123&category=laboratory**



Defined RESTful API Operations: <http://hl7.org/fhir/operationslist.html>

# FHIR® is More than a Data Standard

## HL7v2 analogy: Standard messaging

Hi John - are you free to go to dinner on Friday night at Grand Rounds at 7 pm?

Now

Sure, that will work for me. Go ahead and make a reservation

Now • SMS

## FHIR® analogy: A much more expansive framework



Check John's calendar to see if he is free



Book a reservation at Grand Rounds if they have availability. If not, find another place



Put a calendar invite on both of our calendars



Figure out what time I need to leave from home and book my ride-share

# Adoption of FHIR®

- FHIR® has been a work in progress the past 8 years
- FHIR® is not required... yet
- Shared FHIR® profiles crucial to its success
  - Argonaut project
- Mayo example
  - Mayo Expert Advisor

The screenshot shows a medical software interface with the following components:

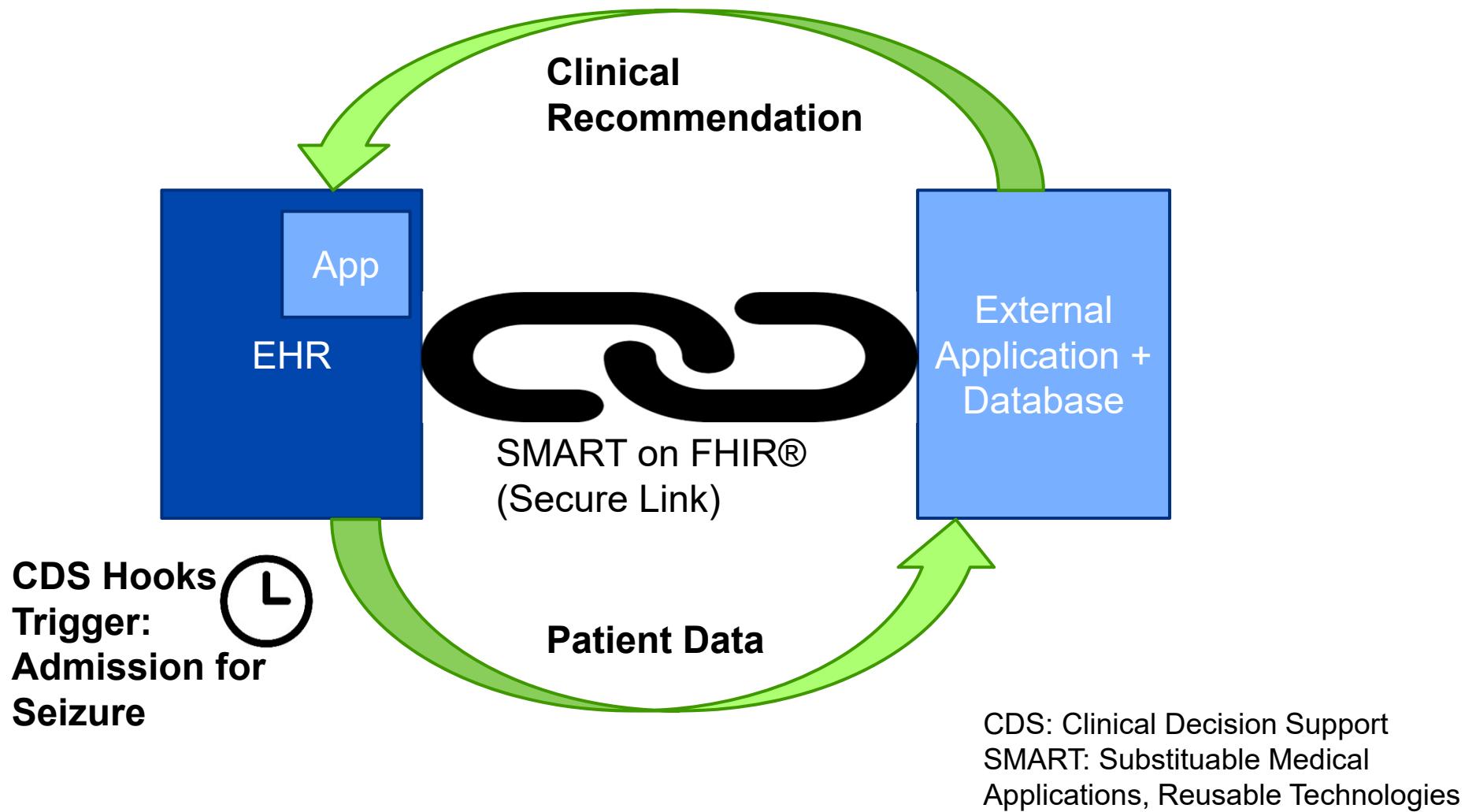
- Patient Appointments:** A header bar with a back arrow, a search icon, and a refresh icon.
- Vitals and Scores:** A table showing vital signs and scores over the past 1095 days. The table includes columns for Date, Temp, Pulse, Heart Rate, BP, BP Location, and Resp.
- MayoExpertAdvisor:** A pop-up window titled "MayoExpertAdvisor" with the sub-section "Patient Care Guidance". It displays a recommendation for "Atrial Fibrillation" with the text "Consider anticoagulation therapy". Below the recommendation, it says "Powered by AskMayoExpert".
- Care/Risk Scores:** A table showing various risk scores. The table includes columns for Score and Status (indicated by icons: green checkmark, red exclamation, and yellow warning).

Score	Status
Health Risk Score	2 ✓
ERA Composite Score	2
ASCVD 10-Year Risk Score	?
Diabetes Composite Score	1 !!
Pneumococcal Risk Score	3
CHADS2 Stroke Risk	2.8% ⚠
- Social Determinants of Health:** A section with a heart icon and the text "Social Determinants of Health".

# CDS Hooks + SMART on FHIR®

**CDS Hooks:** Trigger to invoke app

**SMART on FHIR®:** Secure connection between EHR and app



# Example

- View a patient on  
<http://clinfhir.com/patientViewer.html>

# Assessment Question

**Which of the following is true about FHIR®?**

- a. The customizable features of FHIR® are called resources
- b. FHIR® resources cannot perform operations
- c. FHIR® resources may employ SNOMED-CT or RxNorm
- d. FHIR® does not allow mobile integration

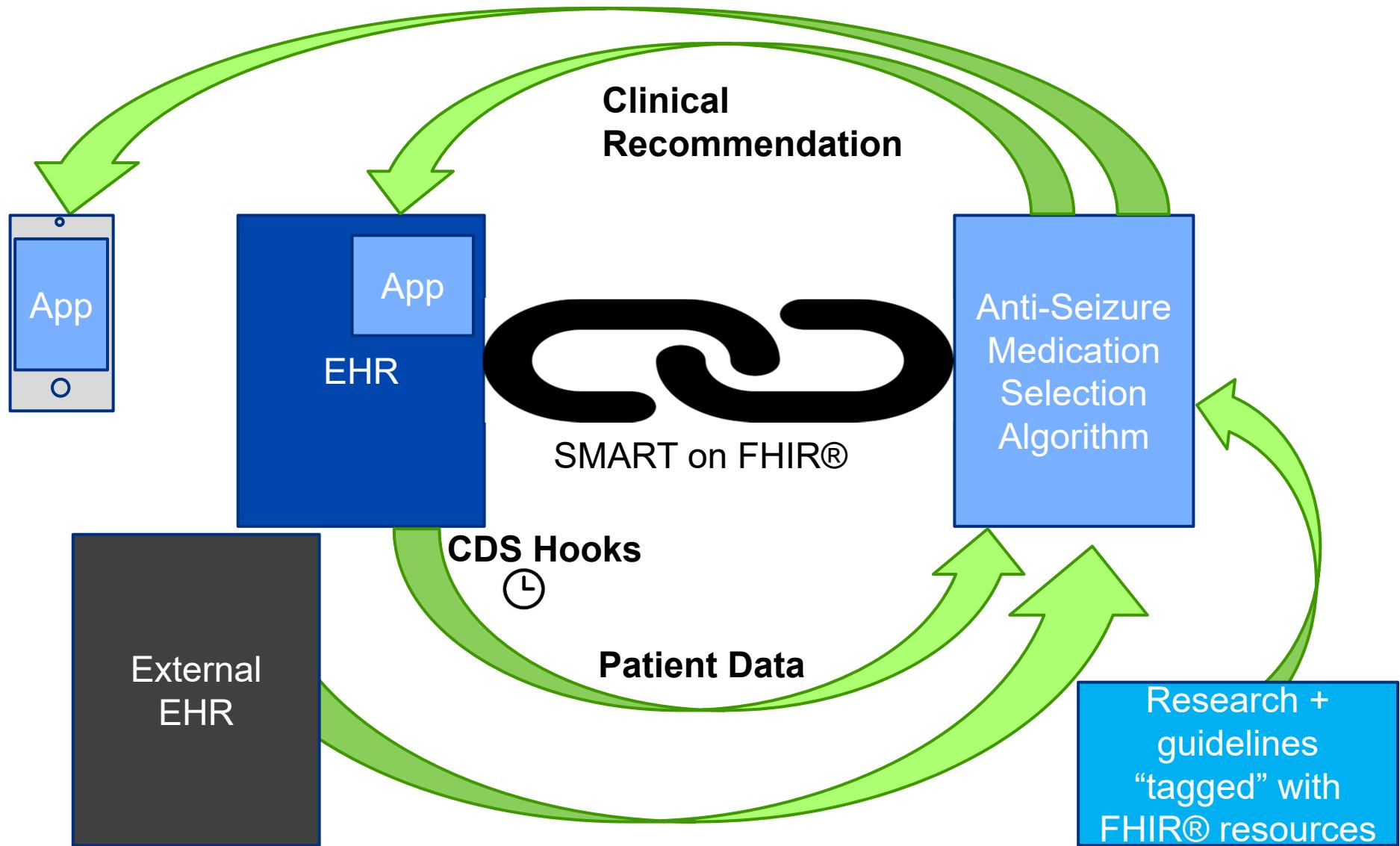
# Objectives

1. Identify the advantages of HL7 FHIR® over other methods of information exchange in healthcare
2. Describe the core components of FHIR®
3. **Explain the application of FHIR® to medication management**

# Anti-Seizure Medication App Resources

Seizure characteristics	<u>Questionnaire Response</u>	Comorbidities (i.e. obesity, kidney failure)	<u>Condition</u>
Lab tests (i.e. liver function enzymes)	<u>Observation</u>	Potential drug interactions	<u>Medicinal Product Interaction</u>
Current/attempted anti-epileptics	<u>Medication Statement</u>	Pharmacogenomics	<u>Observation</u>
Insurance coverage	<u>Coverage</u>	Allergies	<u>Allergy/Intolerance</u>

# Anti-Seizure Medication Selection App Made Possible with FHIR®



# Considerations for the Clinical Medication Expert with External Applications

Which medications are included in the external application?

What is the process to ensure new information is incorporated into the external application?

How can we ensure the recommendations provided to clinicians in the app are aligned with the EHR?  
(i.e. allergy, dosage alerts)

# The Path Forward

- Continuous improvements expected as adoption increases
- Use of FHIR® ≠ automatic interoperability
  - Shared profiles and understanding of how to use will be crucial
- Final rule to require EHR vendors to support specific FHIR® resources could occur any day

# Assessment Question

**Which of the following is true about FHIR®?**

- A. SMART on FHIR® provides a framework for triggers to invoke apps
- B. Use of FHIR® does not guarantee interoperability
- C. CDS hooks defines how EHRs can securely interact with FHIR® apps
- D. FHIR® has not been adopted in the U.S.

## Where to Learn More

- FHIR® documentation
- RxNorm
- SNOMED-CT

# Conclusions

- Core FHIR® components include resources, extensions, profiles and operations
- FHIR® is fundamentally different than previous standards of information exchange
- FHIR® likely will accelerate the development of custom tools designed for patient care that may be accessed via various platforms