eHealth Exchange

Operating Policy and Procedure

Subject: Health Notifications Purpose of Use (NOTIFICATION)		
Status: Final	Policy #: OPP-18	
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I.   *Purpose*

This document establishes policies and procedures in support of the "Encounter Alerts (Notifications)" Use Case, including the establishment of a new, optional PurposeOfUse (POU) code intended to align with the policy considerations particular to the exchange of these data. Asserting a POU code for health notifications will enable notification submitters to memorialize the nature and purpose of these disclosures.

II.   *Policy*

The NOTIFICATION POU established herein is intended to memorialize for the submitter/discloser the unique intent of the exchange of health notifications in an accurate and transparent manner. Particularly between HIEs, the exchange of notifications is often a multipurpose function. This is supported in the approved Use Case documentation, which notes that notifications are used to "populate HIE longitudinal records *& to fulfill other purposes*," (emphasis added).

For example, notifications could be used to support various scenarios:

- Notification to a treating provider of a new clinical encounter or patient activity (Treatment)
- Notification of health plan or registry member activity following a visit or appointment (Health Care Operations)
- Notification of patient activity following a mandatory case report (public health activities)
- Notification of patient activity following an SSA query (specialized government functions)

To the extent a network/HIE Participant pushes notifications to one or more other network/HIE Participants that may use and/or route such notifications in support of a variety of Permitted Purposes, the NOTIFICATION POU is intended to capture this multipurpose functionality.

Therefore, while the exchange of notifications under the approved Use Case must be for one or more Permitted Purposes, such notifications may be shared in support of any/all Permitted Purposes, in accordance with Applicable Law, using the PurposeOfUse value NOTIFICATION.

Participants may use another approved POU per the value set under the then-current version of the eHealth Exchange Authorization Framework (e.g., OPERATIONS, PUBLICHEALTH, etc.) for the exchange of notifications if, and only if, that level of specificity is appropriate based on the circumstances of the exchange.

For the avoidance of doubt, the PurposeOfUse value NOTIFICATION may only be used as set forth in this OPP. **Any query for additional clinical data following receipt of a notification must**

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comply with the DURSA and Applicable Law and use the appropriate POU per the value set under the then-current version of the eHealth Exchange Authorization Framework (e.g., OPERATIONS, PAYMENT, PUBLICHEALTH, etc.).

III.   *Procedure*

1. Participant notifies eHealth Exchange via administrator@ehealthexchange.com that it intends to exchange notifications under the NOTIFICATION POU.

2. The following criteria apply to use of the NOTIFICATION POU in the eHealth Exchange network:

   a. Within a Participant's network/HIE, a triggering event (e.g., an HL7 V2 ADT) should be used to begin a workflow that involves determining whether a patient exists in another Participant's network/HIE.

   b. Filtering criteria should be used to determine which Participants should receive a request to find the patient in their system(s). For example, within the network that triggered the event, determine the home address state for the patient and send a patient discovery request or a FHIR $match request to any Participant that has providers in the same state as the patient's home address state.

   c. When a patient is found to exist in another Participant's network/HIE, then the Participant that triggered the event should provide the remaining event data.

   d. Any Participant that uses the NOTIFICATION POU should reciprocate. If the Participant sends patient discovery requests or FHIR $match requests to other Participants using the NOTIFICATION POU, then that Participant must also accept patient discovery requests or FHIR $match requests using the NOTIFICATION POU. If a Participant receives additional event data using the NOTIFICATION POU, then that Participant must also provide additional event data to another Participant using the NOTIFICATION POU, if the patient exists within their system(s).

IV.   *Definitions*

All capitalized terms, if not defined herein or otherwise cited, shall have the same meaning as set forth in the DURSA.

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V.   *References*

Restatement II of the Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement (DURSA), Version Date: August 13, 2019

    a. Section 1, *Definitions*

eHealth Exchange Authorization Framework, current version available at
https://ehealthexchange.org/testing-program/technical-specifications/

Use Cases and Specifications, current version available at
https://ehealthexchange.org/testing-program/technical-specifications/

VI.   *Related Policies and Procedures*

    a. N/A

VII.   *Version History*

ID	Date	Comments
1	10/29/2025	The Coordinating Committee approved this Operating Policy and Procedure (OPP).
2		
Note eHealth Exchange staff may revise this Operating Policy & Procedure (OPP) with non-substantive changes (e.g. hyperlink updates, correcting typos, correcting grammar, adding related OPPs, etc) without processing revisions through official change management processes.		