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## CDS in the Cloud: Deploying a CDC Guideline for National Use

Session 239, March 8, 2018

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# Conflict of Interest

Blackford Middleton, MD, MPH, MSc, FACP, FACMI, FHIMSS  
Employee: Apervita, Inc., Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health  
Consulting Fees: HL7, MITRE, Stanford Farm Ventures  
Contracted Research: AHRQ Patient-centered Clinical Decision  
Support Learning Network (Chair, Steering Committee)

Ninad Mishra, MD, MPH

Has no real or apparent conflicts of interest to report.

# Agenda

- Background and Context (15 mins)
  - Clinical Issues in STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) Diagnosis and Treatment
  - Informatics Issues for disseminating e-guidelines at scale
- CDC CDS Project and Methodology Review (15 mins)
- Implementation Overview (15 mins)
- Discussion / Questions & Answers (15 mins)

## Learning Objectives

1. Identify the essential clinical pearls from the 2015 CDS Sexually Transmitted Disease Guideline pertaining to gonorrhea treatment, and describe the clinical decision support that is implemented
2. Define the current standards and capabilities to build “Smart on FHIR” applications using clinical logic executed in the cloud
3. Recognize the capabilities of the Apervita platform to encode clinical logic and express it in a variety of additional web-services and applications
4. Describe the ability to implement the clinical logic in the cloud and securely provision EHRs in use nationwide
5. Describe the ability to monitor performance of the clinical decision support to provide feedback to knowledge authors for refinement



## Scaling CDS for Disseminating Guidelines in Public Health: A Case Example

- Clinical decision support (CDS) is a term used to describe the use of health information technology to encourage health care providers' adherence to clinical guidelines.
- These clinical guidelines can include recommended treatment regimens for health conditions of public health concern.
- The Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII), working under cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), partnered with Apervita to advance CDS for STIs.
- This talk describes how CDC's gonorrhea treatment recommendations were converted into an electronic CDS knowledge artifact that conforms to current informatics standards.

# Clinical Background and Context

- In the US we are experiencing a near epidemic of STDs and growing patterns of antibiotic resistance among infecting agents.
- Antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea is particularly concerning:
  - *There are about **820,000** new gonorrhea infections each year in the U.S*
  - *Gonorrhea is the **2<sup>nd</sup>** most commonly reported infectious disease*
  - *We are down to **1 effective class of antibiotics***

## Antibiotic-Resistant Gonorrhea



Gonorrhea is developing resistance to the antibiotics we use to treat it.



There are about **820,000** new gonorrhea infections each year in the U.S.



Gonorrhea is the **2<sup>nd</sup>** most commonly reported infectious disease



We are down to **1** recommended effective class of antibiotics to treat it

The public health and medical communities must work together to:



Monitor antibiotic resistance



Develop new treatment options

With only one recommended treatment option remaining,  
**it's time to take action.**

Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/arg](http://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/arg)



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
National Center for HIV/AIDS,  
Viral Hepatitis, STD, and  
TB Prevention

## Clinical Issues with STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) Care Management

- Complicated cases with recurrent and/or resistant disease may be seen by primary care providers with less familiarity with the guidelines
- Subtle differences in appropriate therapies depending on infection site
- Important to include care management considerations (partner evaluation, referrals, patient care handouts, etc.)
- Nuances of recommended care may require data not in EHR – therefore interactive dialogue with clinician who can obtain additional information from patient



## Issues with Guideline Translation, Specification, and Dissemination for CDS (Clinical Decision Support) at Scale

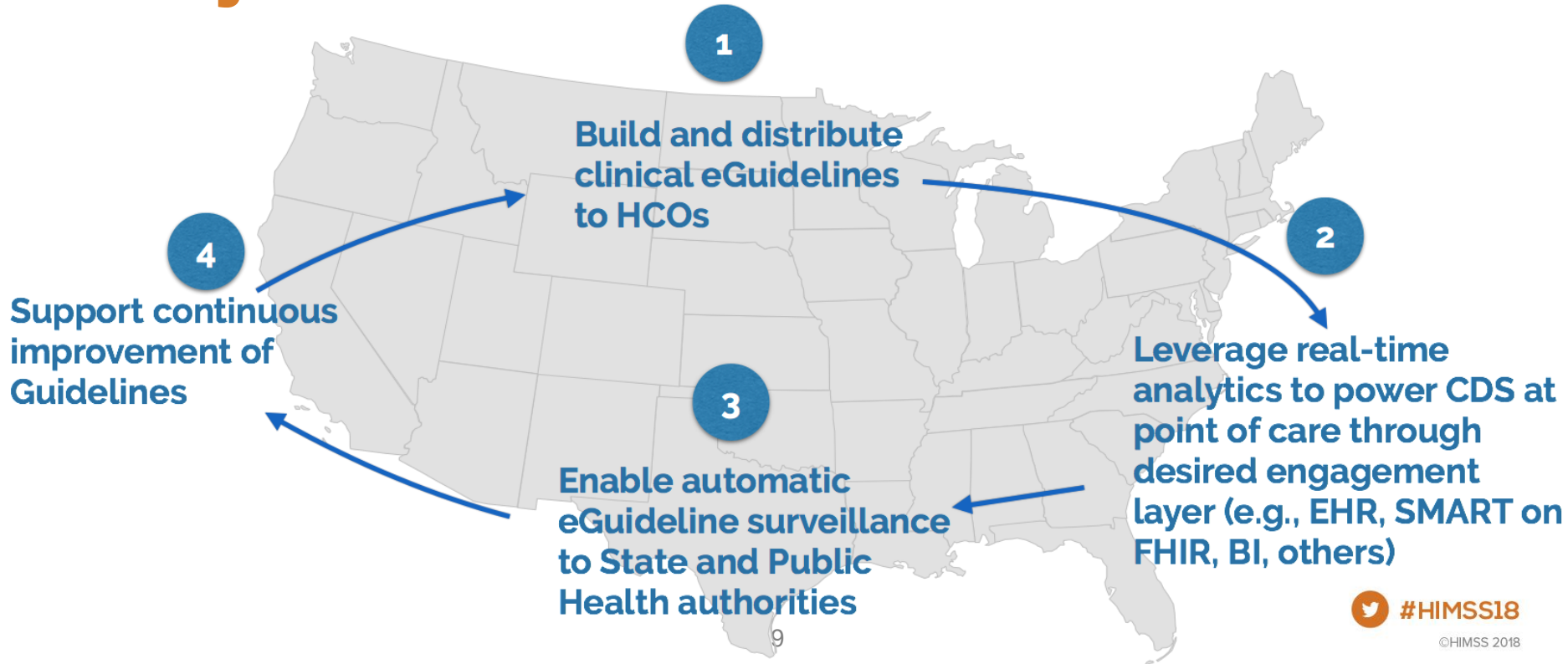
- Translating guidelines into knowledge artifacts is hard - not many HCOs have capability
- Specifying knowledge artifacts with detailed logic, terminologies, and expressions is better with CQL (Clinical Quality Language)
- Prior research has found the simplest approach is to use web services for CDS knowledge sharing (Health-e-Decisions Use Case 2)
- FHIR (Fast Health Interoperability Resources), SMART on FHIR apps, and CDS Hooks are methods used to access data and return CDS
- Challenges may still exist with semantic mappings, insertion of CDS into the clinical workflow

Wright A, Sittig DF, Ash JS, et al. Lessons learned from implementing service-oriented clinical decision support at four sites: A qualitative study. *Int J Med Inform.* 2015;84(11):901-911.

Goldberg HS, Paterno MD, Rocha BH, et al. A highly scalable, interoperable clinical decision support service. *JAMIA.* 2014;21(e1):e55-e62.



# Project Vision



# Where are We?



- *Paper Guidelines*
- *Limited standards to represent knowledge and to access data*
- *High-cost, resource intensive one-off Guideline & CDS implementations*
- *Costly to maintain as Guideline evolves*
- *Difficult to assess efficacy*

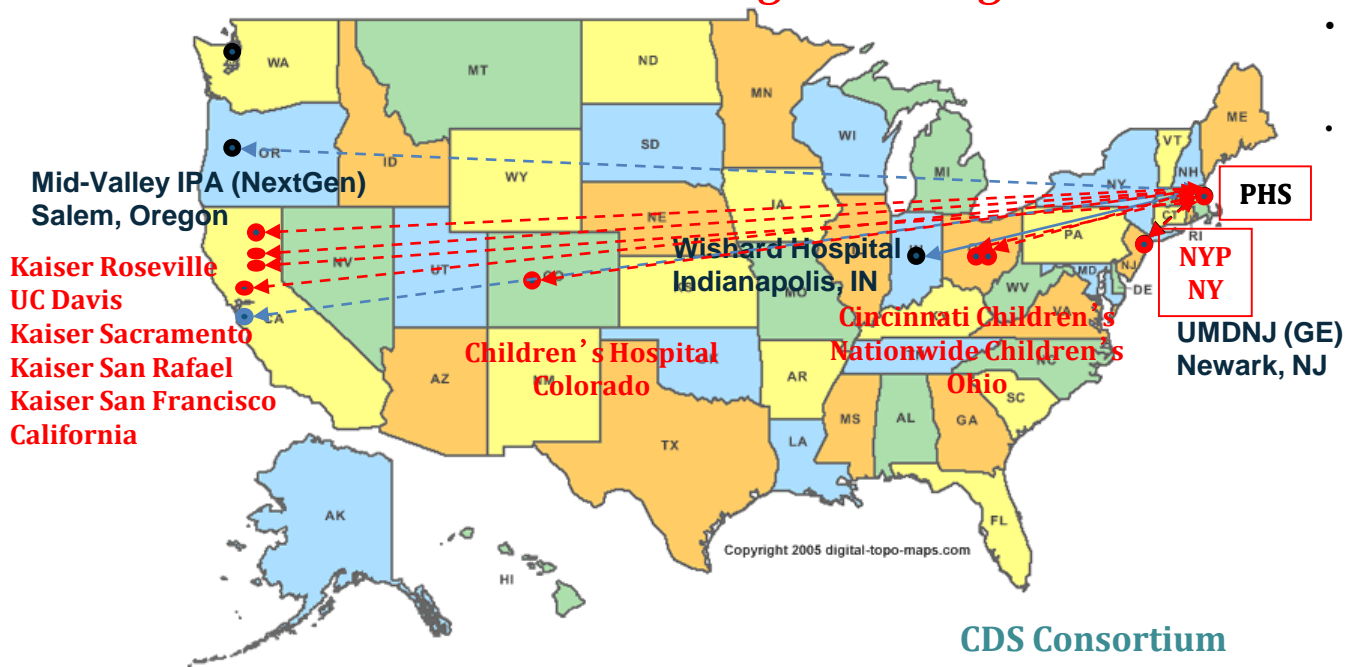
**Little standards-based CDS in national use**



- *Computable Guidelines*
- *Completely standards based and interoperable Guideline implementation*
- *Tools and infrastructure are available to deliver Guideline across multiple applications (e.g., EHR, Business Intelligence)*
- *Full lifecycle capabilities allow for knowledge asset maintenance*

**Standards-based, interoperable eGuidelines & eCDS**

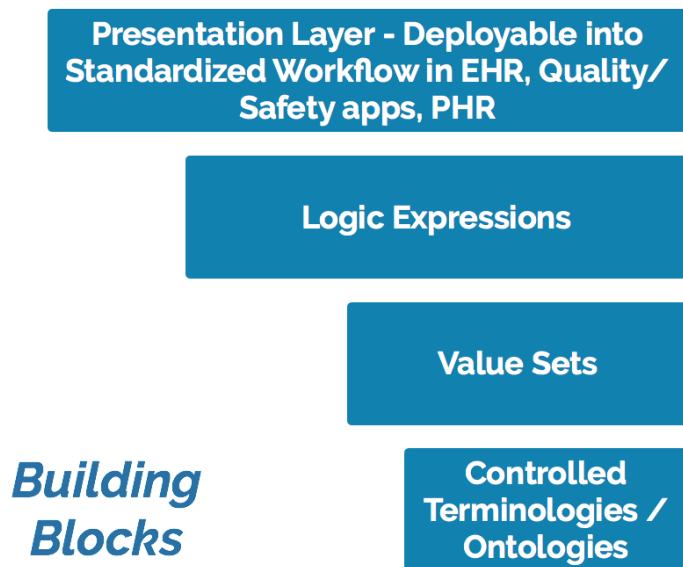
## *Toward a National Knowledge Sharing Service*



- **Clinical Decision Support Consortium**  
Middleton B, PI: 2008-13, AHRQ –funded:  
HHS A290200810010
- **Major accomplishments:**
  - Knowledge artifacts published: 11 clinical rules, 50+ classification rules and 375 immunization schedule rules
    - 8 clinical sites implemented using 5 different EHRs
  - More than 240 users utilize CDS services
  - Established legal framework for collaboration
  - Since 2010 more than 1.7M CCD transactions were processed
  - 31 entities (companies and academics) in a pre-competitive environment
  - Contributed to ONC-sponsored Health-e-Decisions efforts: KAS 1 and KAS 2

# How do we get There?

## COMMON BUILDING BLOCKS FOR INTEROPERABLE CLINICAL REASONING



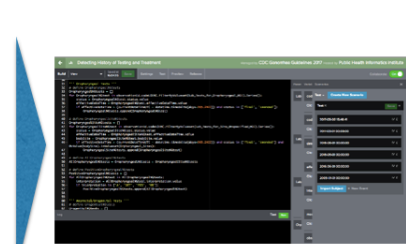
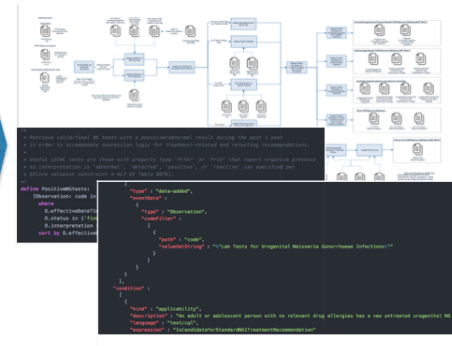
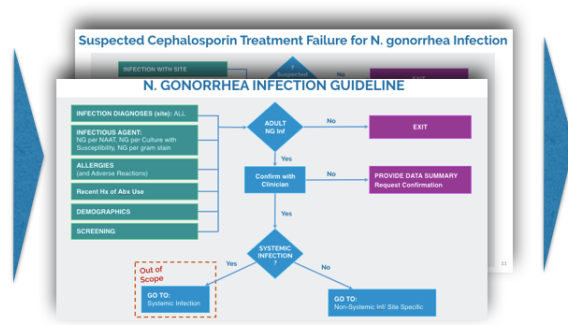
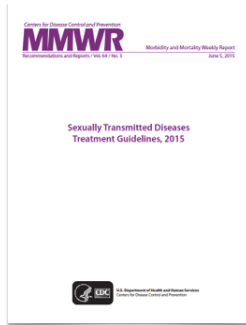
- eCQM, eCase Reporting, eCase Detection, and Clinical Decision Support share many common building blocks
- An integrated architecture with common and shared set of specifications for key components and delivered applications reduces friction and enhances interoperability

# Project Scope

- The purpose of this project is to convert CDC's gonorrhea treatment recommendations into an electronic clinical decision support (CDS) knowledge artifact that is:
  - conformant with current CDS interoperability standards
  - executable in standards based CDS engines
  - compliant with appropriate terminology standards
- The project was completed in 6 months and divided into three parts:
  - Part 1: Build logic flow diagram from 2015 STD guideline treatment and management recommendations
  - Part 2: Convert logic flow diagram to interoperable, standards-based representation using CQL Expression Language and FHIR Clinical Reasoning resources
  - Part 3: Implement and demonstrate the delivery of real-time clinical decision support using the Apervita computing platform

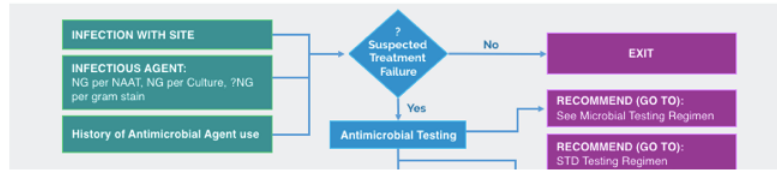
# Methodology and Application Overview

- L1** Started with paper CDS STI Guideline
- L2** Converted Guideline to a logic flow diagram with CDC SME input
- L3** Built standards-compliant CQL and FHIR Resources; specifying and encoding the logic with data model(s), terminology/code sets, value sets
- L4** Implemented real-time CDS in an execution environment (Apervita)

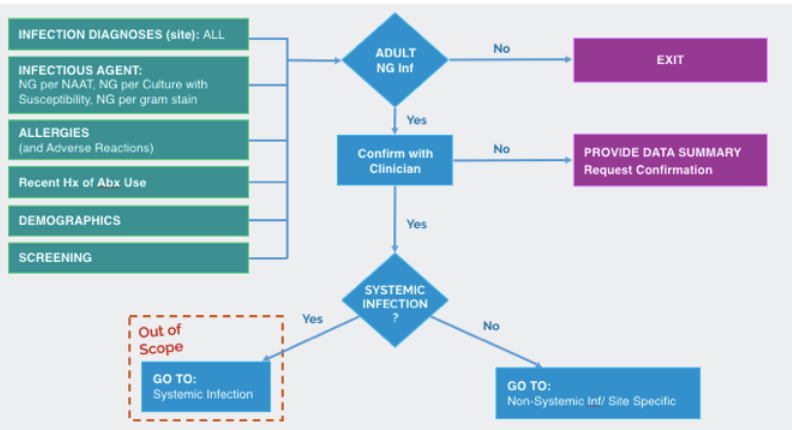


# Gonorrhea Logic Flow Diagrams

## Suspected Cephalosporin Treatment Failure for N. gonorrhea Infection



## N. GONORRHEA INFECTION GUIDELINE



### • Non-Systemic Infection Expanded Scenarios

- Oropharyngeal NG Infection
  - Azithromycin Allergy
  - Cephalosporin Allergy
- Urogenital & Anorectal NG Infection
  - Azithromycin Allergy
  - Cephalosporin Allergy
  - Pregnancy
- Suspected Cephalosporin Treatment Failure
  - Test for Cure



## Going from L2 to L3 - Applying Current Informatics Standards to the Translation and Specification Process



### ***FHIR QICore Data Profile***

- Based upon Quality Information and Clinical Knowledge (QUICK) data model
- Specializes in clinical decision support and quality measures
- Designed to be highly interoperable

### ***CQL (Clinical Quality Language)***

- CQL is designed to harmonize eQMs and CDS
- Provides for specification of interoperable expression logic
- Both human-readable and machine-readable

### ***VSAC and custom Value Sets***

- Define high-level concepts in terms of applicable codes from standard terminologies
- Share standard definitions with eQM specifications and measure developers

### ***FHIR STU3 PlanDefinition***

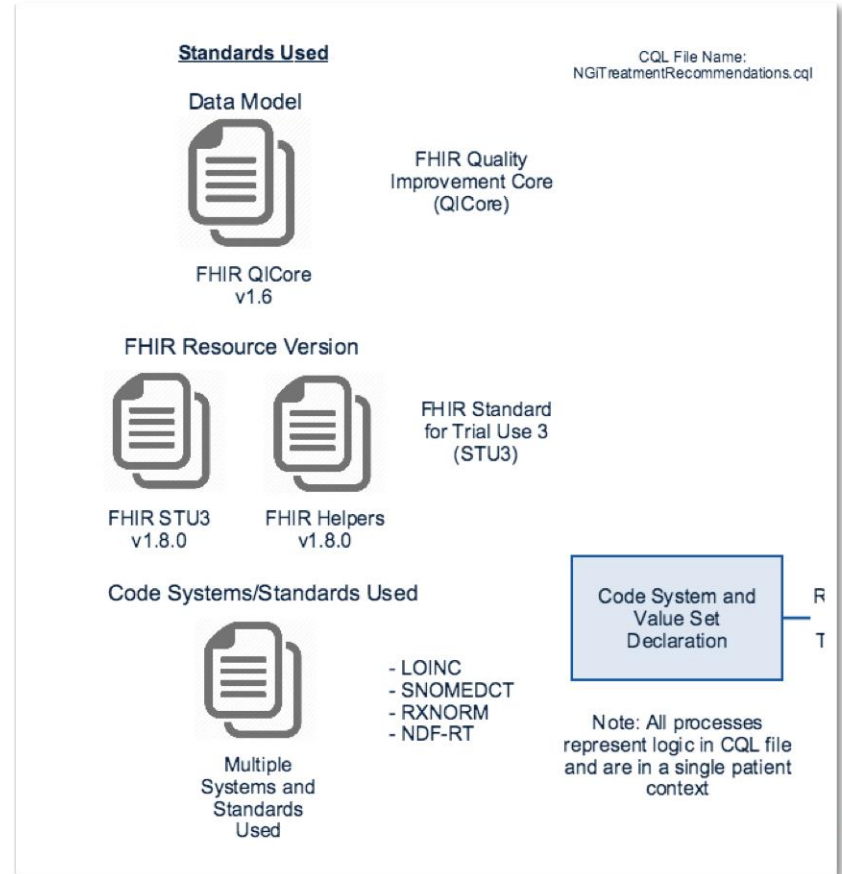
- FHIR STU3 resources are focused around reusability, performance, and data fidelity
- PlanDefinition resource provides a template for recommendations and actions in treatment guidelines



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## L3 - Standards Used to Represent the Guidelines

- **Data Model Standards**
  - FHIR QICore v1.6
  - FHIR Helpers v1.8.0
- **Guideline Representation**
  - Clinical Quality Language (CQL)
  - FHIR STU3 v1.8.0 Clinical Reasoning Resources
- **Value Set Code Systems**
  - LOINC
  - SNOMEDCT
  - RXNORM
  - NDF-RT
- **Completely Standards-Based!**



## Going from L3 to L4 - Implementing the Standards Based CDS

### Standards Based Implementation



- Standard Data Structure
- Customizable Careplans



- Customizable Value Sets



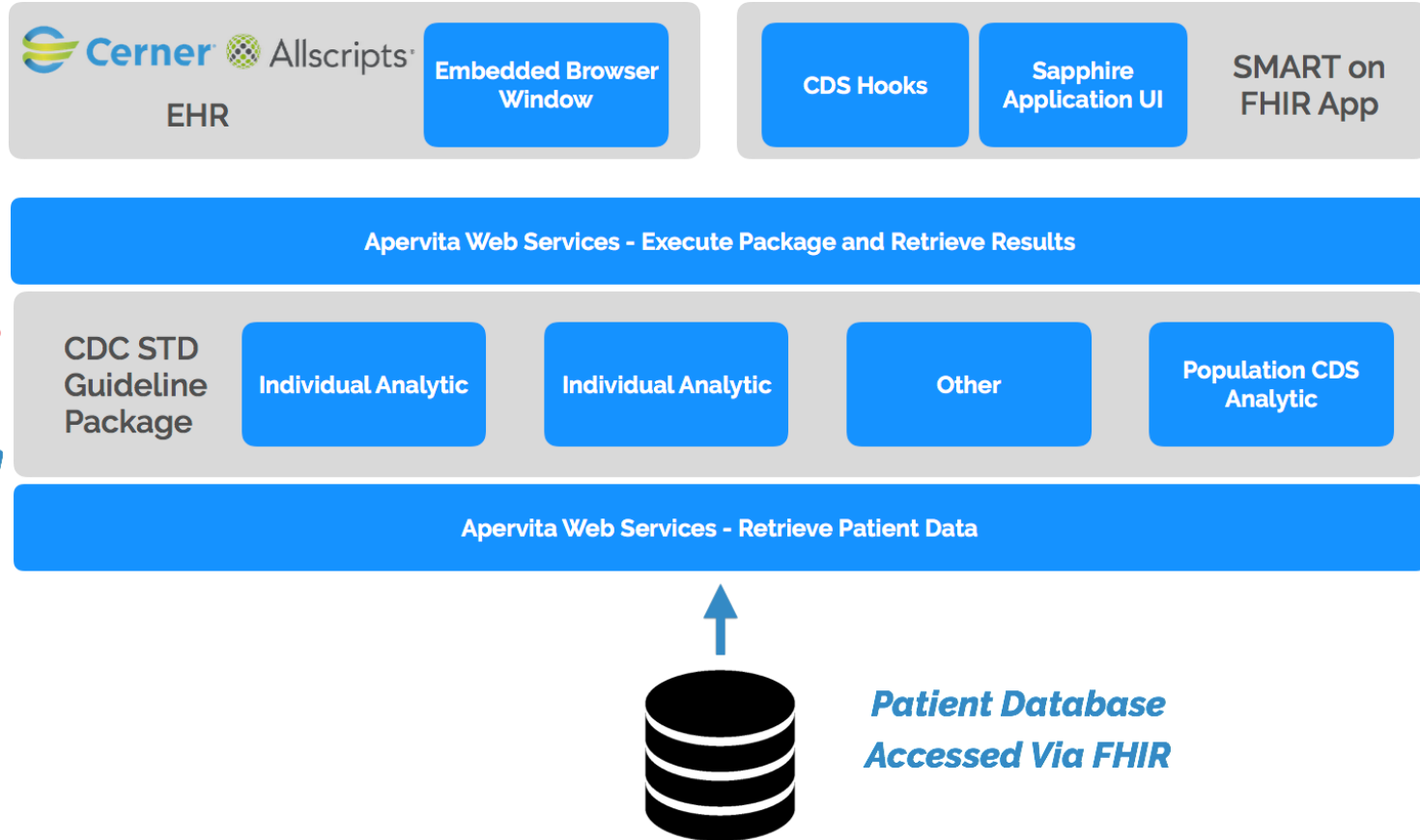
- Assess Clinical Scenarios



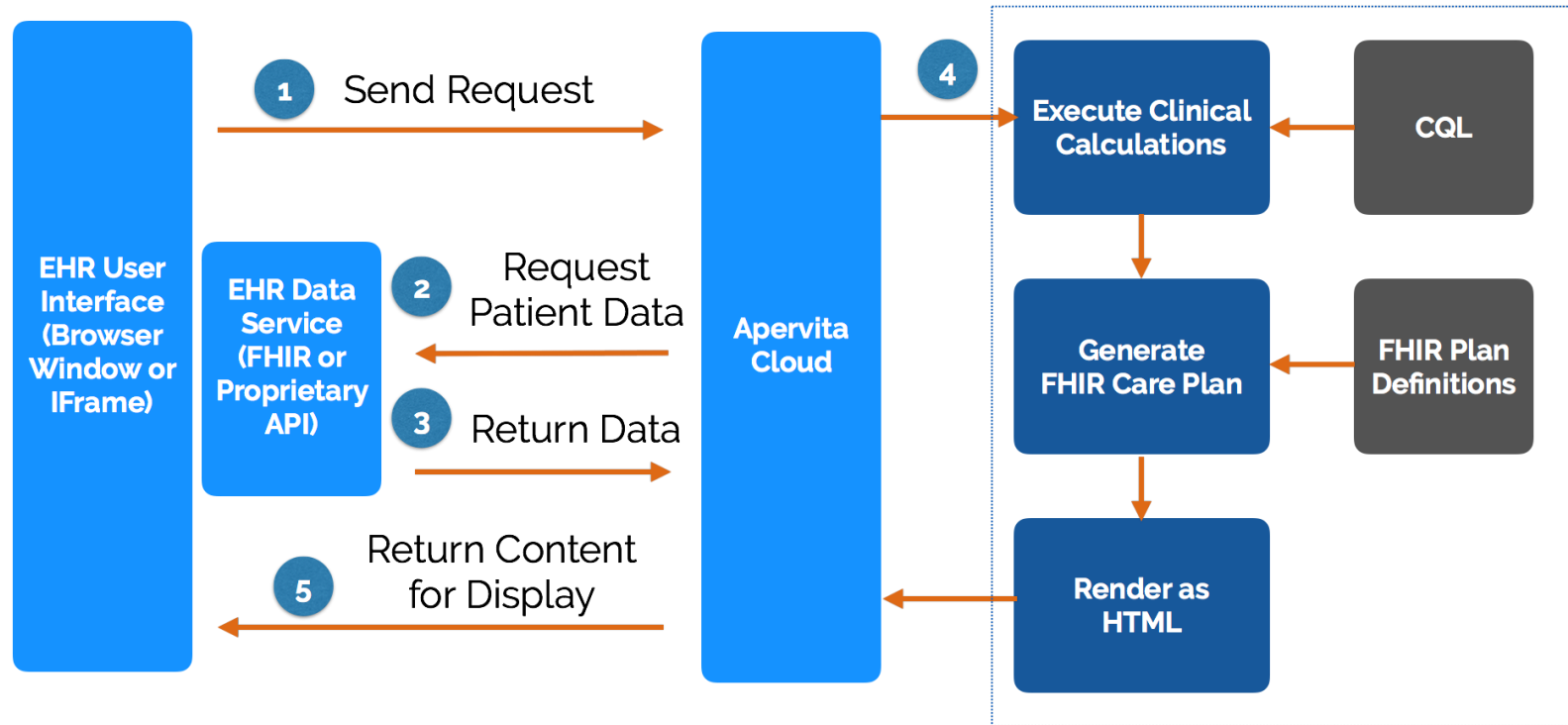
- HTML
- CDS Hooks
- EHR Integration



# L4 - Implementation and Application Diagram



# Web Services Interactions - EHR and SMART on FHIR



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Peters, Paul - 00020557 Opened by Coombe, Rachel

Task Edit View Patient Chart Links Notifications Navigation Help

Patient List Tear Off Attach Change Suspend Charge Entry Exit Calculator AdHoc Medication Administration Depart Patient Education Result Copy Related Records Explorer Menu Links

Peters, Paul

Peters, Paul  
DOB: 1/19/1987  
Age: 30 years  
EMR: 00020557  
Gender: Male  
Fin #: 000023935  
Loc: North ; ;

CDC Guidelines - Apervita

Overview Demographics Chart Search Community View

### Ambulatory Summary

This page is not a complete source of visit information.

Expand All Customize Help

#### Summary

**PETERS, PAUL** 30 y M DOB: 01/19/1987  
Visit: 01/17/2011 START ePrescribe  
Notes: 1 | Orders: 0 | Charges: 0 | Rx: 0

[Education \(0\)](#)  
[Visit Summary \(Depart\)](#) (Not documented)  
[Reconciliation](#) (Completed)

Chief Complaint: follow up | dm follow up | sore throat  
Visit Provider: Cicero, Shane  
Resp Provider: Cicero, Shane  
PCP: --  
Adv Dir: Yes

Alerts (0)  
Reminders (0 overdue | 0 due | 0 future)  
Sticky Notes (0)  
Future Appointments (0)  
Past 5 Visits (0)  
Address and Phone  
Health Plans (0)

#### Medications (4)

All Visits

Hic: Keflex, po 0 refills  
Hic: lisinopril 10 mg oral tablet 10 mg/1 tab(s), PO, daily 90 tab(s) 0 refills  
Hic: metformin 500 mg oral tablet 500 mg/1 tab(s), PO, bid 180 tab(s) 0 refills  
Hic: Synthroid 100 mcg (0.1 mg) oral tablet 100 mcg/1 tab(s), PO, daily 90

#### Vitals

Last 2 years for all visits

	Today within	Previous within	
BP	120/80 3 hrs	120/80 5 wks	120/80 3 mos
Temp	98 3 hrs	98 5 wks	101 3 mos
HR	77 3 hrs	77 5 wks	67 3 mos
Respiratory Rate	19 3 hrs	18 5 wks	18 3 mos
Oxygen Saturation	99 3 hrs	99 5 wks	99 3 mos

#### Measurements (3)

Last 2 years for all visits

	Today within	Previous within	Change
Height	67 in 3 hrs	67 in 5 wks	0 in
Weight	190 lb 3 hrs	195 lb 5 wks	-5 lb
Body Mass Index	29.75 kg/m2 3 hrs	30.54 kg/m2 5 wks	-0.79 kg/m2

#### Labs

Last 1 years for all visits

#### Documents | Notes (7)

Last 2 years for all visits

	Author	Date/Time
Assessment Form	zztestO'Brien, Patrick (Do Not Use)	05/16/12 12:58
Advance Directive Forms	zztestO'Brien, Patrick (Do Not Use)	05/16/12 12:57
Assessment Form	ZZEMR Provider Access, Provider Access	05/16/12 10:43
General Clinic Note (Physician)	ZZEMR Provider Access, Provider Access	05/16/12 10:40
Assessment Form	ZZEMR Provider Access, Provider Access	05/16/12 10:39
Assessment Form	ZZEMR Provider Access, Provider Access	04/16/12 10:38
Assessment Form	ZZEMR Provider Access, Provider Access	03/12/12 10:37

#### Recommendations (0 Overdue | 10 Due)

All Visits

	Next Due
Expectation	05/16/12
Depression Screen	05/16/12
HIV Screen (if sexually active)	05/16/12

Simulated  
patient  
data

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Peters, Paul

Peters, Paul DOB: 1/19/1987 EMR: 00020557 Fin #: 000023935  
\*\* Allergies \*\* Age: 30 years Gender: Male Loc: 1 North ;

Menu < > Home CDC Guidelines - Apervita Print 0 minutes ago

Apervita Clinical Decision Support Recommendations Evidence About

## 2015 CDC Guidelines for Sexually Transmitted Diseases

### Treatment for NG Infections

- Standard Treatment Recommendation for Adult with New Untreated Gonorrhea
- Evaluation for STD Co-infections in Adults with Gonorrhea
- Treatment-associated Recommendations for New Gonorrhea

CMTDEV | RC019210 | June 26, 2012 | 9:51 AM CDT



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DOB: 1/19/1987 EMR: 00020557 Fin #: 000023935

Peters, Paul  
Allergies

Age: 30 years Gender: Male Loc: 1 North

Menu

CDC Guidelines - Apervita

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Apervita Clinical Decision Support Recommendations Evidence About

2015 CDC Guidelines for Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Treatment for NG Infections

Standard Treatment Recommendation for Adult with New Untreated Gonorrhea

This patient has a new test result suggesting untreated gonorrhea and has no known allergies to the standard treatment regimen. Consider treatment with azithromycin 1g PO x1 dose and ceftriaxone 250mg IM x1 dose.

Propose order for azithromycin 1g PO x1 dose Submit Medication Request

Propose order for ceftriaxone 250mg IM x1 dose Submit Medication Request

Evaluation for STD Co-infections in Adults with Gonorrhea

If an adolescent or adult has evidence of gonorrhea and has not received simultaneous or subsequent evaluation for co-infection with chlamydia, syphilis, and HIV, then the missing tests should be performed.

Propose an order for a chlamydia test. Submit Procedure Request

Propose an order for a syphilis test. Submit Procedure Request

Propose an order for an HIV test. Submit Procedure Request

Treatment-associated Recommendations for New Gonorrhea

If this patient has a new test result suggesting gonorrhea, then the patient's sexual partners during the last 60 days should receive evaluation and presumptive treatment for gonorrhea, the patient should be retested for gonorrhea 3 months after treatment, and patient

CMTDEV RC019210 June 26, 2012 9:51 AM CDT

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Contrary, Mary

Contrary, Mary DOB:1/19/1990 EMR:00020557 Fin #:000023935

\*\* Allergies \*\* Age:27 years Gender:Female Loc:1 North ;

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Apervita Clinical Decision Support Recommendations Evidence About

## 2015 CDC Guidelines for Sexually Transmitted Diseases

### Treatment for NG Infections

- Recommended Treatment for Adult with New Untreated Urogenital/Anorectal NG Infection and Allergy to Azithromycin
- Recommendations for Recurrent Gonorrhea When Cephalosporin Treatment Failure Is Suspected
- Evaluation for STD Co-infections in Adults with Gonorrhea
- Treatment-associated Recommendations for New Gonorrhea

CMTDEV | RC019210 | June 26, 2012 | 9:51 AM CDT

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Contrary, Mary  
DOB: 1/19/1990 EMR: 00020557 Fin #: 000023935  
Age: 27 years Gender: Female Loc: 1 North ; ;

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Apervita Clinical Decision Support Recommendations Evidence About

### Treatment for NG Infections

#### Recommended Treatment for Adult with New Untreated Urogenital/Anorectal NG Infection and Allergy to Azithromycin

#### Recommendations for Recurrent Gonorrhea When Cephalosporin Treatment Failure Is Suspected

This patient appears to have recurrent gonorrhea after prior treatment with a cephalosporin. If cephalosporin treatment failure is suspected, consider microbial testing (C&S for *N. gonorrhoeae*, if not done), and consider testing for eradication and cure with both a NAAT and C&S for *N. gonorrhoeae* 14 days after re-treatment.

Propose an order for a culture before re-treatment in the setting of recurrent gonorrhea with suspected cephalosporin treatment failure. [Submit Procedure Request](#)

Propose an order for a test of antibiotic susceptibilities for any *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* organisms that may be identified by a culture test obtained in the setting of recurrent gonorrhea with suspected cephalosporin treatment failure. [Submit Procedure Request](#)

Propose an order for a NAAT to detect the persistent presence of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* 14 days after treatment in the setting of suspected cephalosporin treatment failure. [Submit Procedure Request](#)

Propose an order for a culture to detect the persistent presence of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* 14 days after treatment in the setting of suspected cephalosporin treatment failure. [Submit Procedure Request](#)

Propose an order for a test of antibiotic susceptibilities for any *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* organisms that may be identified by a culture test obtained 14 days after re-treatment in the setting of suspected cephalosporin treatment failure. [Submit Procedure Request](#)

CMTDEV RC019210 June 26, 2012 9:51 AM CDT



Summary page

Ms. Mary Contrary

DOB :1989-10-29

Age : 27

Gender :Female

Address :

168 Florence Street

Springfield, IL , USA

Contact :

Mobile : 708-555-1212

Home : 708-555-6666



### Recent results



Test	DateTime	Result
Hemoglobin [Mass/volume] in Blood	2017-05-03 01:02 AM	12.3g/dL Final
Neisseria gonorrhoeae rRNA [Presence] in Vaginal fluid by Probe and target amplification method	2016-09-11 07:00 PM	POS Final
Chlamydia trachomatis [Presence] in Urine sediment by Organism specific culture	2016-08-02 04:00 PM	POS Final
Neisseria gonorrhoeae Ag [Presence] in Unspecified specimen	2016-08-02 04:00 PM	POS Final

### Related medications



Medication	Start Date	End Date
Ceftriaxone 250 MG Injection 250 mg, intramuscular, once	2016-08-01 12:30 PM	2016-08-01 12:30 PM
Doxycycline Monohydrate 100 MG Oral Capsule 100 mg, By Mouth, two times a day	2016-08-01 01:30 PM	2016-08-08 12:00 AM

### Related diagnoses



Problems	Onset
Gonococcal infection, unspecified (ICD10CM: A54.9)	2017-03-01

### CDS Hook



Evaluation for STD Co-infections in Adults with Gonorrhea

Treatment-associated Recommendations for New Gonorrhea

Recommended Treatment for Adult with New Untreated Urogenital/Anorectal NG Infection and Allergy to Azithromycin

Recommendations for Recurrent Gonorrhea When Cephalosporin Treatment Failure Is Suspected

This patient appears to have recurrent gonorrhea after prior treatment with a cephalosporin. If cephalosporin treatment failure is suspected, consider microbial testing (C&S for N. gonorrhoeae, if

### Related allergies



Substance	Status	Recorded
Azithromycin	! confirmed	2011-07-13 07:00 AM

### Resources

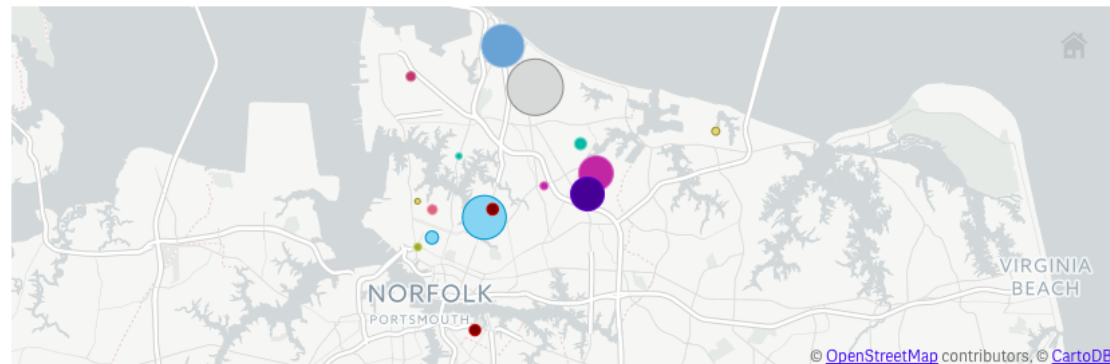


Resources for the patient

- [Gonorrhea also called: The clap](#)
- [Understanding Gonorrhea tests](#)



## STD Cases at Sacred Heart Norfolk Clinics, 2017 YTD



SH Gonorrhea Cases

558

SH Gonorrhea Follow Ups

168

STD Case Count in Norfolk, VA

15,313

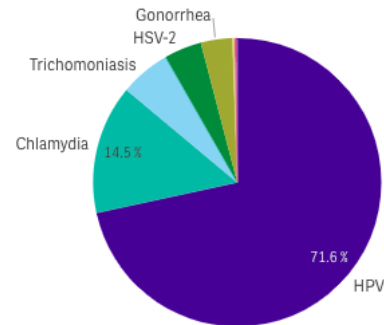
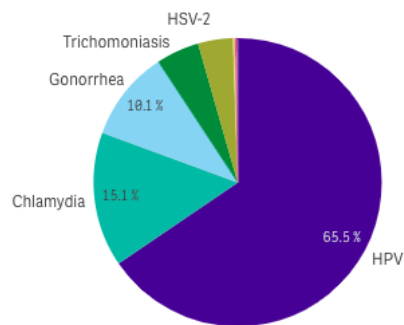
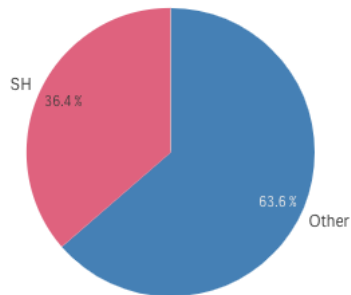
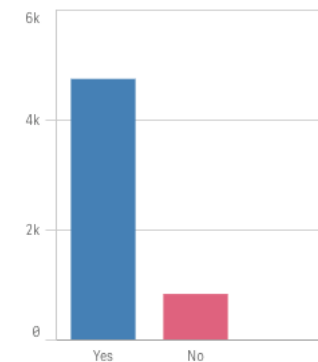
STD	Q	Sacred Heart Case Count	Norfolk Case Count
Totals		5567	15313
HPV		3637	10031
Chlamydia		843	2311
Gonorrhea		558	1552
Trichomoniasis		290	741

## SH NG Guideline Followed

## Share of STD Cases

## STD Case Distribution - Sacred Heart

## STD Case Distribution - National



## Lessons Learned

- Broadly accepted standards are in place today to accomplish representation and delivery of interoperable Guidelines and Clinical Decision Support
- Going from paper Guidelines to logic flow diagram (L1 to L2) was not a straight forward translation and required domain expertise and input from clinical SMEs
- Going from L2 to L3 also required significant clinical informatics expertise to identify Value Sets and Plan Definitions for treatment recommendations
- Information required to drive clinical decision choices may not exist, proxies are needed for true data enablement

## Acknowledgements



- Ninad Mishra, MS, MD
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- Randolph Barrows, MD
- Lana Tsurikova, MSc, MA



- Blackford Middleton, MD, MPH, MSc
- Matthew Burton, MD
- SiSi Shen, MBA
- Andy Schriever
- Tony Thai, MBA
- Kenji Wong





## Discussion / Questions & Answers

- Thank you!



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@bfm