

**2026
DEFENSE HEALTH INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM**

**AUGUST 11-13, 2026
HYATT REGENCY NEW ORLEANS
NEW ORLEANS, LA**

Bridging Medicine and Dentistry: The Future of Federal Health is Data Integration

Speakers:

John Short, Chief Data Interoperability Officer, Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization (FEHRM) Office

Dr. Ryan Lee, Dental Subject Matter Expert (SME) (CTR), FEHRM



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Agenda

1. The Problem, Solution, and Call to Action
2. Federal Electronic Health Record (EHR) Overview
3. Industry Stakeholder Engagement
4. Federal EHR Site Visit
5. Early Dental Standards Development
6. Health Level Seven (HL7) Connectathon Spotlight: January 2026
7. Call to Action: September 2026 HL7 Connectathon and Working Group Meeting

Speaker Introduction



John Short

Chief Data
Interoperability Officer
FEHRM



Dr. Ryan Lee

Dental Subject Matter
Expert (SME) (CTR)
FEHRM

The Problem, Solution, and Call to Action



The Challenge: Dental and medical data have historically remained siloed, creating inefficiencies in care coordination, readiness assessments, and whole-person health insights.



FEHRM's Role: The FEHRM is leading a national-priority effort, in coordination with Department of Health and Human Services/Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, HL7 Standards Body, and the American Dental Association (ADA), to advance dental-medical interoperability, connecting oral health data to critical medical domains such as cardiology, radiology, nephrology, and head and neck oncology.



Why It Matters: Improved oral health data exchange can strengthen health readiness, improve clinical decision-making, and enhance outcomes for service members, beneficiaries, Veterans, and citizens.



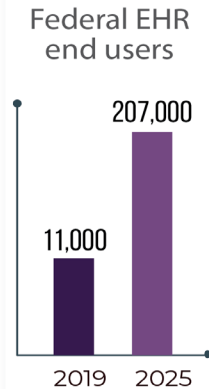
Call to Action: Join the FEHRM at the HL7 Connectathon to shape the standards and use cases that will define the future of dental-medical interoperability.

Federal EHR Updates




Federal EHR
**Growth By
The Numbers**

FEHRM.gov | 2019-2025



12,406+
Federal EHR
changes made
through joint
governance

606
catalog updates
made to
streamline
change
management
processes

8.5M+ patients



50
new
exposure
terms
added

Expanded the
number of
sites that can
exchange
immunization
data

2019

14%
U.S. HOSPITALS

to

2025

90%+
U.S. HOSPITALS

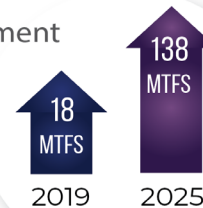
exchanging data via joint HIE,
now the largest health information
exchange in the world.



150 military,
civilian, and
contractor
FEHRM
personnel

DoW deployment

395
lessons
learned
collected
and shared



29 registries
with **299**
measures
enabled

1,900+ reports
generated for
end users on
key issues

Streamlined software
development
lifecycle for **505**
content developers



60+ FEHRM-Led
Forums

Coordinating complex deployments for
179 joint sharing sites supported by **190**
resource-sharing agreements offering
3,436 shared services nationwide



Lead integrator for cloud
migration to see massive
capability expansion

15
Federal EHR
video
testimonials
created

Collected
feedback from
6,050+ end users
during Federal
EHR Annual
Summits



6 VA medical centers including
26 associated clinics and
104 remote services
1 joint sharing site deployed

7 NOAA sites
110 USCG sites

FEHRM Dental Initiatives

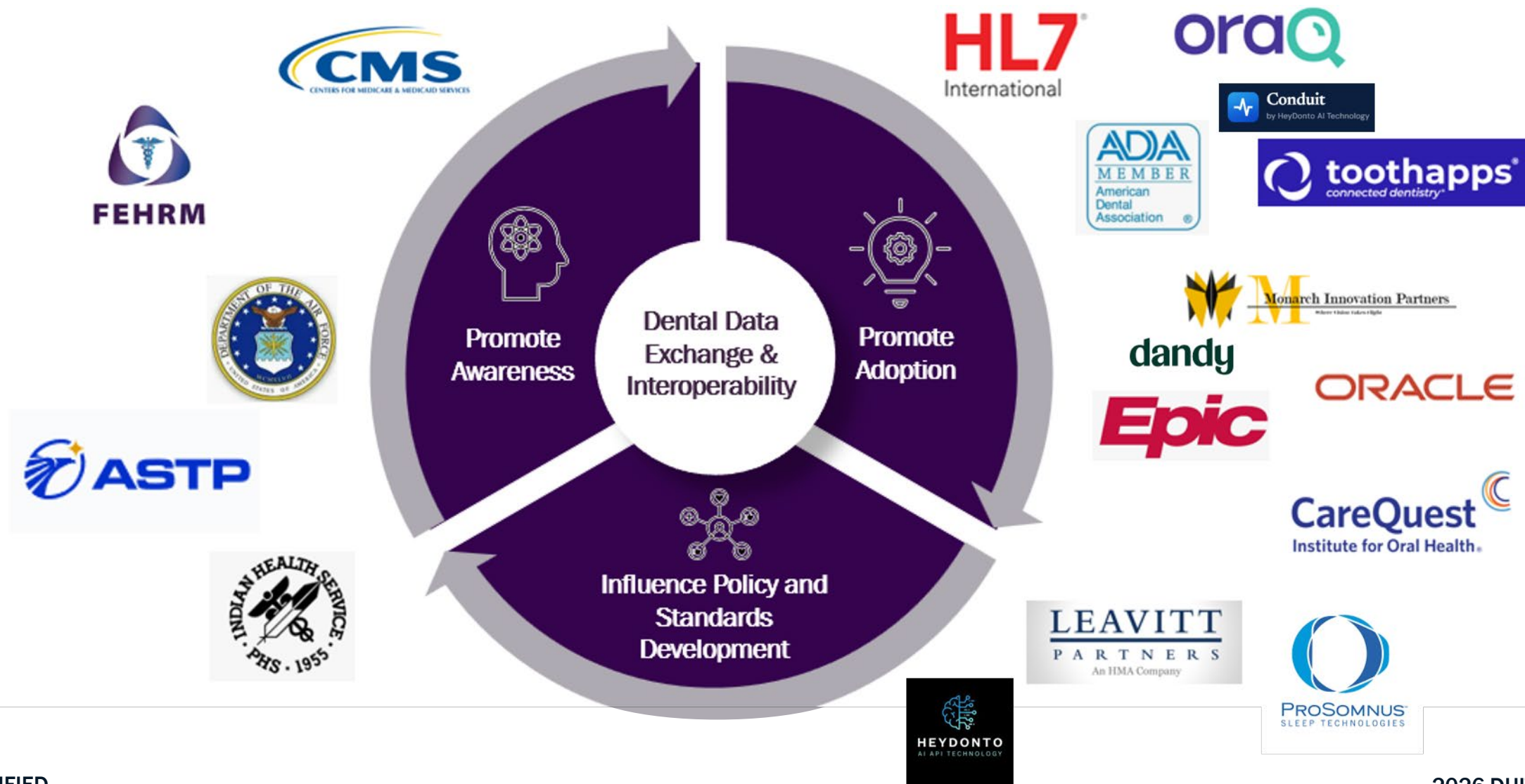
Industry Stakeholder Involvement

Dental-Medical Integration Use Case Development

EHR Deployment Site Visits

Dental Standards Development

Industry Stakeholder Involvement



Key Dental-Medical Integration Use Cases

Use Case and Situation	Details and Value
Head and Neck Cancer Dental Clearance Medical (gives) Dental (cancer info) and wants (clearance date) before Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)/chemo	• Head and neck cancer patients often need dental clearance before radiation/chemo can begin • Lifelong oral complications, including osteoradionecrosis, make pre-treatment dental risk mitigation critical • No true interoperability between dental Practice Management System (PMS) and medical EHR creates manual referrals, delayed clearance, and incomplete clinical context • Closed-loop exchange would share cancer treatment details with dental and return clearance date/status to oncology before IMRT/chemo
Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) Dental (asks) Medical (for info) (or Patient Self Referral) to treat OSA	• 30M+ Americans have untreated or undertreated OSA, creating downstream health risk • Dentists can screen and treat OSA through oral appliance therapy, often when Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) is not tolerated • Dental teams need medical diagnostic context — sleep study results, Apnea-Hypopnea Index (AHI) score, OSA severity, medications — to determine treatment fit • Closed-loop exchange would reduce fragmented referrals and support coordinated CPAP, oral appliance, and surgical pathway decisions
Dental Readiness (DRC) in Military Health Military Medical (asks) Dental (for dental readiness score 1-4) before deployment	• Military members cannot deploy or serve without dental readiness • Dental emergencies occur in 15.4% (Air Force) to 26.4% (Army) in theater • Medical evac for dental emergency/pain upwards of \$200K per soldier • Analog reporting of servicemembers' annual dental exams + repeat imaging

Federal EHR Site Visit

Brief Questionnaire (for FHCC Dental Staff)

1. What is your current role and organization at Lovell FHCC (e.g., VA staff dentist)?
2. Which EHR system(s), both medical and/or dental, are you currently using on a weekly basis (please list as many as you wish)?
3. In what ways is the EHR system(s) you mentioned above seamless regarding dental-medical interoperability (*i.e., most patient records can be accessed within a single program*)?
4. In what ways is the EHR system(s) you mentioned above challenging regarding dental-medical interoperability (*i.e., multiple steps are required to achieve a singular clinical task*)?
5. Which non-dental departments (e.g., pulmonology) do you currently collaborate with on a regular basis? If so, for which medical or dental conditions (e.g., obstructive sleep apnea)?
6. Which non-dental departments (e.g., oncology) do you currently NOT collaborate with on a regular basis, but that you wish would involve greater professional exchange?
7. Please share any other comments you have about how dental-medical interoperability can be improved at Lovell FHCC.
8. Please share any other comments you have about what the FEHRM can provide in our shared goal of achieving dental-medical interoperability and data standardization.



First Site Visit Conducted JUN 2025

Leadership at HL7 Connectathon and Working Group Meetings

Goals

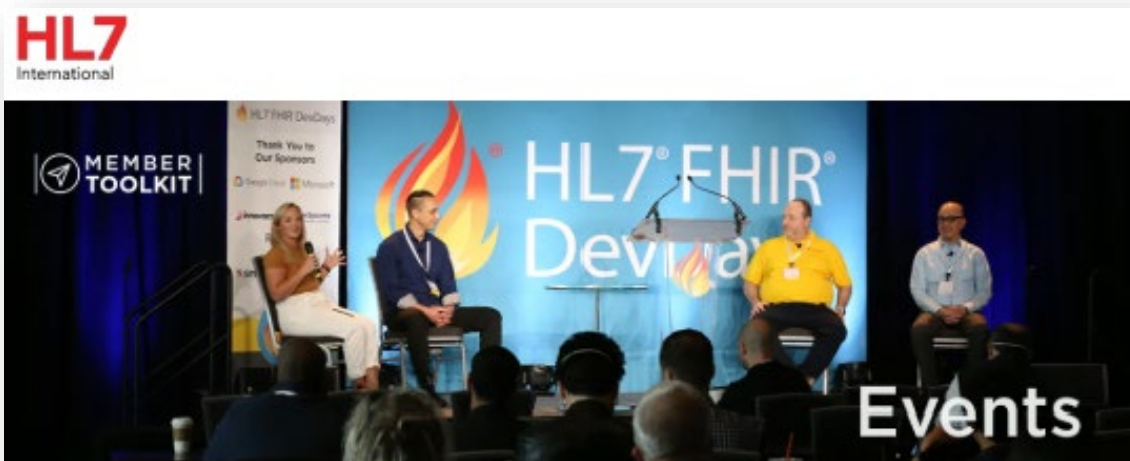
Dental Data Exchange: Test vendor implementations of workflows that support medical-dental data exchange (both clinical and claims data) to promote the advancement of the standard.

Oral Health Interoperability Alliance: Test Oral Health Profile for *Creating Access to Real-time Information Now through Consumer-Directed Exchange (CARIN)* Blue Button; and Support the FEHRM in Head/Neck Cancer Use Case.

Participants



Join Us at the Next One: September 19–25, 2026



Events Overview

**You're Invited – Expand Your Knowledge & Connect
with Experts at HL7 Events!**

Each and every one of our signature events offers a tremendous opportunity for HL7 members to engage with peers, experts, and industry leaders in panel discussions, keynote addresses and working group sessions. These gatherings provide the perfect platform to share your experiences, learn from others and network with like-minded professionals, taking your health IT knowledge to new heights.

HL7 40th Annual Plenary, Working Group Meeting and FHIR Connectathon

Starts: Sep 19, 2026 09:00 AM (ET)

Ends: Sep 25, 2026 05:00 PM (ET)

[Download to Your Calendar](#)

What is a Working Group Meeting?

HL7 International working group meetings (WGMs) are held three times per year at varying locations and serve two important purposes:

1. To provide HL7 International work groups a chance to meet face to face to work on the standards as well as the opportunity to network with industry leaders from around the world.
2. To provide an invaluable educational resource for the healthcare IT community.

[#HealthcareDataInsightsHL7](#)

[More information](#)

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Location

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
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Rockville, MD 20852

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Dr. Ryan Lee

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Thank You!



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