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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

**Manuscript No.: IJAR-59698**

**Title: Interoperability of Electronic Health Records Using HL7 and FHIR Standards: A Framework for Integrated Healthcare Systems in Saudi Arabia.**

**Recommendation:**

Accept as it is .....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision .....

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

| Rating | Excel. | Good | Fair | Poor |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Originality | | ✓ | | |
| Techn. Quality | | ✓ | | |
| Clarity | ✓ | | | |
| Significance | | ✓ | | |

**Reviewer Id: JPR-364**

## Reviewer's Comment for Publication

The manuscript presents a comprehensive and relevant discussion of electronic health record interoperability using HL7 and FHIR standards, with particular reference to the healthcare environment in Saudi Arabia. It provides a clear explanation of the different levels of interoperability, including structural, semantic, organisational and clinical interoperability. The discussion of legacy systems, clinical terminology, patient identity management, data quality, information security and privacy demonstrates a sound understanding of the technical and organisational requirements of integrated healthcare systems.

The proposed seven-layer interoperability framework is a valuable conceptual contribution, bringing together governance, identity and trust, connectivity, semantic services, orchestration, clinical workflows and continuous assurance. The manuscript also provides practical implementation scenarios, conformance measures and a phased implementation roadmap. Its emphasis on clinical safety, accurate information exchange and responsible data governance makes the discussion particularly significant for Saudi Arabia's digital healthcare transformation. Overall, the paper is well-organised, clearly presented and relevant to healthcare informatics, offering useful academic and practical insights into the development of integrated electronic health record systems.