Author’s response to reviews

Title: A Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Layer Implemented Over i2b2

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor,

Thanks again to the reviewers. Enclosed is the latest version of our article entitled: “A Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Layer Implemented Over i2b2”.

In page 20, we corrected an error in the grant number. Below, a point by point response to the reviewer’s comments. Changes brought to the text are highlighted in yellow in the article.

Diego Bosca (Reviewer 1): Authors have taken into account all the recommendations by all reviewers, resulting in a great quality paper. Congratulations!

Comment 1

My only little comment is to correct Thomas Beale name (written as 'Beal’) in page 4

Response:

Done.

Philipp Bruland, Ph.D. (Reviewer 2): Thanks for considering most of the mentioned issues. I think your changes make your manuscript now clearer.

Nevertheless, I found still some points that should be corrected before publication:

Comment 1
- I cannot really understand why you add on page 4 a whole discussion about openEHR. Does this add something to the message of your paper? I would say this is another topic not really related to that what you want to state here. So, I would suggest removing it or shrinking it to a very minimum.

Response

We added this paragraph in response to comment number 1 of reviewer 1. Comment of reviewer 1 convinced us with the fact that this could be useful to the reader as even if FHIR is a hot topic it remains under used in comparison with openEHR which is the most popular CIM. Readers will be surely interested by a “quick” comparison with these two models.

However, we agree that may be this paragraph should not be in the introduction section.

We moved this paragraph from the introduction section to the discussion section in page 13.

Comment 2

- The requirements in 2.2 are still *narrative*! Put them into a more serious way. Such as: "After interview with physicians/researchers we identified the following requirements: ..."

Response

Done.

Comment 3

- In the Discussion I would again put your work in relation with articles such as SMART on FHIR and other similar works, not only with Information Model papers.

Response

This comment is similar to comment number 3 of reviewer 1. We have already responded to this comment. Reviewer 1 suggested to compare our work with some articles: (1) (2) (3) (4).

Here is our response:

We read each of these articles, in Pfiffner et al. (2), authors developed an extension of the Apple’s ResearchKit framework. This extension allows integrating data from an app to an i2b2 database using fhir but it does not allow to expose i2b2 data using fhir.
In (1) Alterovitz et al. extended the SAMRT-on-FHIR framework to handle clinic-genomics data. This extension of the SMART-on-FHIR framework and also the framework itself (described here) enables to develop medical applications compatible with the fhir standard.

In our knowledge, the only work in relation with the issue of exposing i2b2 data in fhir format is the work by Wagholikar et al. described her (4) and assessed here (3).

Our approach is an alternative to that described by Wagholikar et al. (4) It is based on a locally developed FHIR profile and a purely Java API for FHIR called HAPI FHIR and will not be limited to serve data on a per patient basis.

We already added a paragraph at the end of the introduction section in page 4 to discuss this.

References


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