



Table 1: A comparative overview of healthcare standards and initiatives relevant to radiology

PARAMETER	DICOM	HL7	IHE
Nomenclature	Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine	Health level Seven, Inc	Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise
Origin	Developed by American College of Radiologists (ACR) and National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)	Not for profit volunteer organisation headquartered in Ann Arbor MI	Developed by Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) and Healthcare Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
Founding Year	1985	1990	1998
Latest Version	DICOM Version 3 (2007)	HL7 Version 3	Each year new profiles are selected
Role	Provides protocols for integration of image data between imaging, nonimaging modalities, devices and systems	Provides protocols for exchange, management and integration of varied data in electronic health records	Provides implementation profiles based on existing standards like HL7 and DICOM
Data	Image information objects and nonimage information objects	Clinical and administrative electronic healthcare data	Functional integration workflow elements
Functional Elements	Protocols, Objects, Services, Service Class, Conformance	Act, Participation, Roles	Actors, Transactions, Integration Profiles
Key area	Image and few nonimage data interoperability	Health record and Clinical interoperability	Integration of systems and standards