Terms You Will Hear

Plain-language definitions for the two days. Blue tags show the canvas sheet where a term matters most.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ARCHITECTURE

DPI *Digital public infrastructure.* Shared, government-stewarded systems, such as ID, payments and data exchange, that many services reuse.

DPI-H *DPI for health.* The shared health layer: registries, health record, terminology and decision support, built once and used by many programmes.

DPI-F *Foundational DPI.* Whole-of-government systems not specific to health: national ID, civil registration, payments, trust services.

Reference architecture The WHO/ITU map of DPI-H components and layers. A reading tool, not a product list or a sequence. Sheet 2

Point-of-service application Software people use every day: a clinic record system, an immunization app, a citizen app. It uses the shared layers through APIs.

API *Application programming interface.* A defined, documented way for one system to ask another for data.

Client registry (MPI) *Master patient index.* Identifies one person reliably across systems and links their records.

Facility, workforce and product registries Authoritative lists of health facilities, health workers, and products such as vaccines and their batches.

Lifelong health record A person's health history that follows them across providers and over time. Also called a shared health record.

EIR *Electronic immunization registry.* Records each person's doses. Often the first working part of a lifelong record.

PHR *Personal health record.* Health information the person can see and control, for example in a wallet or citizen app.

Terminology service Serves shared code systems (SNOMED CT, ICD, LOINC) so that data means the same thing everywhere.

Logical information model The agreed structure of the data: elements, types and rules, independent of any software.

Decision support engine Applies guideline logic, for example to work out which vaccine dose is due next.

HIE / information mediator *Health information exchange.* The layer that routes data securely between systems.

HMIS *Health management information system.* Aggregate reporting and analytics, such as DHIS2.

CRVS *Civil registration and vital statistics.* Birth registration can start a child's immunization record.

Interoperability Systems exchanging data and using it with the same meaning. It needs shared standards and governance, not only connections.

STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Standard vs specification A standard is a general rulebook (FHIR). A specification says exactly how to apply it to one use case (the ICVP IG).

SMART Guidelines WHO's path from narrative guidelines to digital content that is standards-based, machine-readable, adaptive, requirements-based and testable.

SMART levels L1–L5 L1 narrative guideline · L2 DAK · L3 machine-readable FHIR IG · L4 reference software · L5 dynamic, data-driven use.

DAK *Digital adaptation kit.* Software-neutral L2 content: personas, workflows, core data dictionary, decision logic, indicators and requirements. Sheets 1, 3

Core data set The elements a country agrees to record for a use case, each mapped to standard codes. Also called a minimum data set. Sheet 3

HL7 FHIR *Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources.* The main standard for exchanging health data through APIs.

IG *Implementation guide.* A FHIR specification for one use case: profiles, codes and tests. It can be adopted rather than authored.

Profile A FHIR resource tailored to a use case, for example by making some fields required.

IPS *International Patient Summary.* A standard minimal health summary, including immunizations, readable across borders.

ICVP *International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis.* The "yellow card". The digital ICVP is its signed, verifiable form.

IHR *International Health Regulations (2005), amended in 2024.* The legal basis for the ICVP and other cross-border health documents.

SNOMED CT Clinical terminology. Use needs a licence, managed at national level; licensing is a national decision. Sheet 3

ICD-10 / ICD-11 *International Classification of Diseases.* WHO's classification; ICD-11 is the current version.

LOINC *Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes.* Codes for laboratory tests and observations.

openEHR An open standard for clinical data models (archetypes), often used to store records alongside FHIR for exchange.

Conformance Proof that a system implements a specification correctly, usually by passing a test suite.

Continued overleaf: trust and credentials, testing, governance and financing, immunization terms, organisations.

Terms You Will Hear, continued

TRUST, CREDENTIALS AND WALLETS

VC *Verifiable credential.* A digitally signed statement, such as a vaccination record, that anyone can check is genuine and unaltered.

Issuer · holder · verifier The three roles: who signs the credential, who keeps it, and who checks it. Sheet 4

Digital signature A cryptographic seal made with the issuer's private key. Verifiers check it with the matching public key.

PKI *Public key infrastructure.* The keys, certificates and rules that make digital signatures trustworthy.

Trust anchor The national authority whose key vouches for the health sector's signers. Sheet 4

Trust list A published list of keys accepted as valid issuers. The GDHCN shares these between countries.

GDHCN *WHO Global Digital Health Certification Network.* A trust network so countries can verify each other's health documents. Countries onboard per use case.

Digital wallet An app where a person holds their credentials. A signed paper QR code can play the same role.

DDCC *Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificates.* WHO's earlier specification; much of its approach carries into the digital ICVP.

HCID *Health certificate identifier.* The unique ID of an issued certificate. Sheet 3

Consent A person's permission for their data to be used or shared. Rules for minors and dependants differ by country.

TESTING AND CONVERGENCE

Sandbox A shared test environment with sample data where systems can try exchanges safely.

Test suite / ITB Automated checks of a system against a specification. ITB, the Interoperability Test Bed, is an open tool used for this.

Interoperability lab A standing national or regional facility for conformance testing and building local skills.

Connectathon An event where teams test real systems against a specification together. It exposes gaps fast and builds skills. Sheet 5

Convergence workshop AeHIN's method for aligning a ministry and its partners behind one national architecture and investment plan.

OpenFN An open-source integration tool used to connect legacy systems and migrate them to standards.

GOVERNANCE, PLANNING AND FINANCING

Digital health strategy The national vision and priorities for digital health.

Blueprint / enterprise architecture The target design for the national system and how its parts fit together.

Costed investment plan A prioritised, costed roadmap from today's systems to the blueprint.

DIIG *WHO Digital Implementation Investment Guide.* Steps to plan, cost and integrate digital health investments.

TWG *Technical working group.* Coordinates standards and architecture decisions across government and partners.

Decision rights Who has authority over architecture, standards, the core data set and the trust anchor. Sheet 4

Procurement conditions Requirements written into tenders, such as conformance to the national IG, that steer what suppliers build.

TCO *Total cost of ownership.* Build costs plus running costs over a system's whole life. Sheet 6

Vendor lock-in Dependence on one supplier because data formats or interfaces are closed.

IMMUNIZATION

EPI *Expanded Programme on Immunization.* The national immunization programme.

AEFI *Adverse event following immunization.* Any health problem after vaccination, reported for safety monitoring.

Dose number and series Which dose this is, out of how many in the schedule. Needed to work out what is due next.

Batch (lot) number Identifies the production batch of a vaccine. Needed for recalls and safety checks.

LMIS / cold chain *Logistics management information system.* Tracks vaccine stock; the cold chain keeps vaccines at the right temperature.

ORGANISATIONS

WHO World Health Organization	**ITU** International Telecommunication Union	**AeHIN** Asia eHealth Information Network
ADB Asian Development Bank	**World Bank**	**CSIRO** Australia's national science agency
UNICC UN International Computing Centre	**UNICEF** UN Children's Fund	**MoPH** Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
HL7 Standards body for FHIR	**SNOMED International** Owner of SNOMED CT	**openEHR** openEHR Foundation

Sources: WHO/ITU Reference Architecture for DPI-H (Draft v1.0); WHO SMART Guidelines; digital ICVP specification; WHO DIIG.