# Consolidated Clinical Document Architecture (C-CDA) 

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## What is C-CDA?

The Consolidated Clinical Document Architecture (C-CDA) serves as a guide for implementing a collection of templates and provides instructions for their utilization in various document types. It's important to note that the C-CDA should not be conflated with the Clinical Document Architecture (CDA), which is the standardized markup language governing the structure and meaning of shared "clinical documents."

## Who Benefits?

- Hospitals: Enables smooth sharing of patient information with other healthcare providers involved, which allows for better coordination and collaboration.
- Patients: Ensures that the patient's medical information is shared and transferred properly and effectively. Allows the patient to stay informed, engaged, and participatory.
- HIE's, HealthIT Vendors, Researchers, etc.


## C-CDA Details

- Usually represented in the XML text format for structured information as well as images
- Generally read-only documents that can be parsed and uploaded.
- Known for popularizing the Continuity of Care Document (CCD), which are documents that deliver a patient's health record in C-CDA format.


## Why participate?

- C-CDA provides a standardized format for transferring documents between systems.
- Ensures that all clinical documents within healthcare systems contain structured and meaningful information.
- Improves care coordination by allowing providers to share information easily.
- Incentivizes compliance through formatting and information requirements.
- Increases patient engagement by enabling secure information sharing.
- Increases patient safety by utilizing a standard and consistent format

