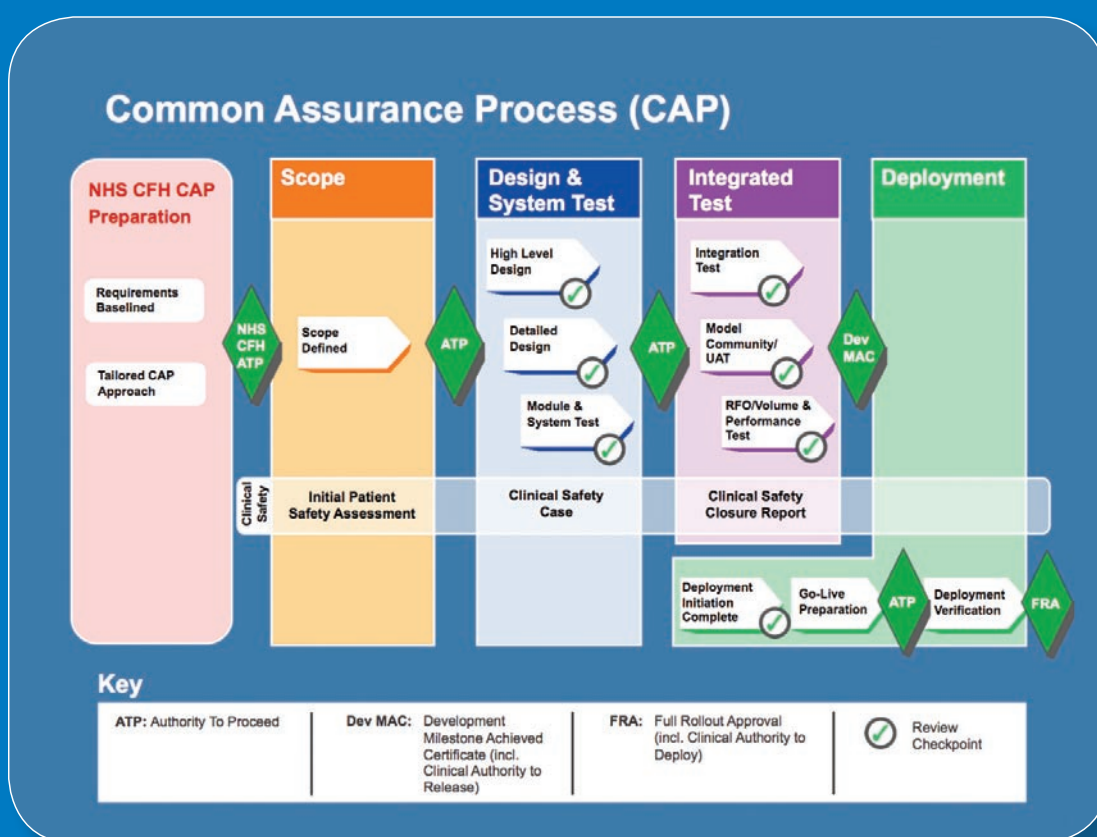


Common Assurance Process (CAP)

NHS Connecting for Health (NHS CFH) operates a robust assurance regime known as CAP for suppliers who need to connect to the new Care Records Services (CRS).



What is CAP?

CAP is a generic end-to-end process for assuring the development and live operation of high quality and clinically safe IT systems. It is based on industry best practice and provides a common standard way in which the services delivered jointly by NHS CFH and IT systems suppliers can be assured. As such it provides a clear basis for the way of working for the specialist teams within NHS CFH. By involving users and IT suppliers, CAP helps to facilitate the smooth handover of the system into local ownership.

How is CAP used?

CAP is currently being used to support and assure the integration of a range of systems from different care settings. For example, early adopters of the Summary Care Record (SCR) – a secure service linking patient information from different parts of the NHS electronically, have followed CAP. It is also being used to assure critical parts of the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) which will enable prescribers to send prescriptions electronically to a dispenser of the patient's choice. CAP is also being used to link Health and Social Care IT systems via the National Care Records Service. This will provide the first true integration of systems between these sectors.

The CAP process

CAP is the assurance process which is applied to manage development projects that result in connection to the Spine for all systems not currently provided by Local Service Providers (LSPs), including GP Systems under GPSoC, Community Pharmacy, Social Care, Independent Systems as well as existing NHS systems. Once initial compliance to a given set of requirements has been validated, CAP is used to assure that all subsequent supplier releases maintain this compliance. For Supplier Initiated Releases a streamlined version of CAP – the Supplier Maintenance Release Assurance process and Request for Change (RFC) process – have been developed to ensure that ‘business as usual’ maintenance releases remain compliant.

CAP is tailored to be appropriate to each specific programme of work. Tailoring takes place during the Scope Stage and is documented in the ‘Release Scope Definition’. This will clearly articulate which NHS CFH requirements are to be met and confirm the Suppliers understanding and agreement of these. NHS CFH have a range of requirements for connectivity to the Spine. The NHS CFH requirements to be assured are clearly articulated to Suppliers and other interested parties before CAP begins.

Stages of CAP

CAP is split into Phases each made up of a number of Stages, logically breaking down the software development and implementation process. Navigation through CAP is based upon the scope and complexity of the supplier release being assured. As such, as a minimum, the Scope Stage will apply to all supplier releases. The application of subsequent CAP stages will depend on the scope and risk associated with a given supplier release.

Support through the process

Each supplier is allocated an NHS CFH Release Manager. The Release Manager is the consistent point of contact between the supplier and NHS CFH who has responsibility for managing the supplier(s) through a given set of requirements.

Clinical Safety

NHS CFH has its own safety certification. This is a stream of activity which is integrated into CAP with defined deliverables and an overarching governance body, the Clinical Safety Group (CSG). The CSG need to be consulted and provide certification before a Supplier Release can be deployed.

For those not yet engaged with NHS CFH or who want to know more about CAP, please visit <http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/industry/Compliance> or email CAP@nhs.net



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