**IHE** is a world-wide initiative that allows Healthcare IT system users and suppliers to work together to enable interoperability of IT systems.

System interoperability is now required across the healthcare spectrum and many suppliers participate annually in the **IHE Connectathon** where large and small companies spend a week working together to validate their system interoperability against **IHE Profiles**, under the watchful eye of a team of **IHE** monitors.

**IHE** accelerates eHealth and mHealth interoperability by:

- Offering a methodology to address use cases supporting healthcare workflows.
- Identifying the information and processes required to support these use cases.
- Defining “specification building blocks” or **IHE Profiles** using existing standards.
- Providing interoperability testing processes and tools: Annual **Connectathon**, Open **Gazelle** Test Platform, ISO 17025 Accredited **Conformity Assessment**.

Across many countries, particularly in Europe, there are **IHE** National Initiatives - their role is to provide information about the use of **IHE Profiles** in local and national specifications and guidance on their implementation.

National **IHE** organisations are active in organising local and regional demonstrations of interoperability amongst suppliers and in arranging meetings, seminars, training and education about interoperability for the benefit of users and suppliers.

Further information can be found on [www.ihe-europe.net](http://www.ihe-europe.net)