API Standards Your Healthcare IT Vendor Should Use
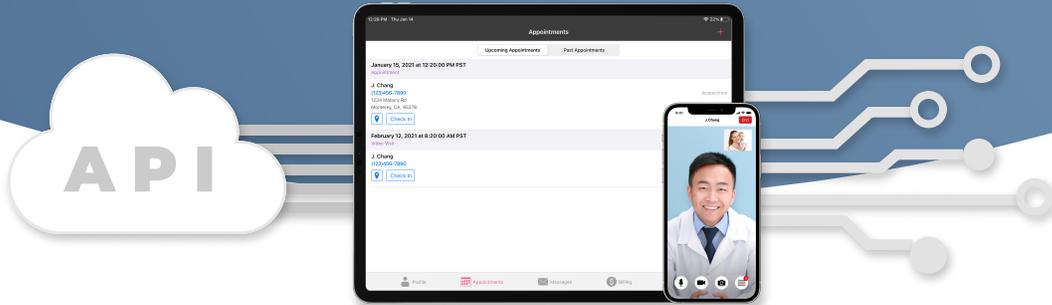
Formatting & Healthcare Industry Standards

JSON

JSON has been adopted across many industries as the ideal format for sending and receiving information via APIs, rather than the more outdated Health Level 7 (HL7).

{ REST:API }

REST API

REST APIs are important for platforms that handle continuous data calls, and it tends to be favored over the more rigid SOAP protocols.

FHIR

FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources) is highly regarded as the future of healthcare API formatting. It's used by Apple Health Records and other companies developing solutions around patient health record access.

Security

OAuth 2.0 is a reliable standard for ensuring a secure connection to the API. While not universally adopted, it's viewed as an important security measure and is in use by large tech companies like Google and Apple.

Documentation And Support

Documentation helps with not only finding endpoints, but it also helps developers complete the authorization process more seamlessly, connect with webhooks, integrate iframes and much more. Maintaining a community forum is recommended to help others work through roadblocks as they build off the API.

Searching, Paging And Sorting

You should be able to easily search the criteria you're looking for. This data should be sorted and timestamped as well. Paging is also critical to limiting the amount of visual data returned while still demonstrating that there is more available according to the specifications requested.