

CDS Hooks — Cards & Indicators

Hooks, indicator severity, card anatomy & alert-fatigue rules

Objective: Author CDS Hooks cards that help at the point of care without causing alert fatigue.

Hooks (when the EHR calls the service)

- **patient-view** — A patient chart is opened/refreshed.
- **medication-prescribe** — A drug is chosen, before the order is signed.
- **order-sign** — About to sign orders — the last intervention point.
- **order-select / encounter-start** — An order is picked / an encounter begins.

Card indicators (severity drives EHR behaviour)

Indicator	EHR behaviour	Use for
info	Passive, dismissible	FYI, education
warning	Attention; proceed with an override reason	Allergy, duplicate order, drug–drug
critical	May block signing; explicit acknowledgment	Life-threatening (critical lab, contraindication)

Card anatomy & design rules

- Card = summary (d140 chars) · detail (markdown) · source · suggestions (one-click FHIR create/update/delete) · links (SMART app / protocol).
- Be specific — name the drug class and the documented reaction.
- Prefer warning over critical (alert fatigue is the #1 reason CDS fails).
- Offer an actionable suggestion, and keep the decision at the point of care — not a separate alert inbox.