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With reference to your requests of “innovative ideas” (found on “Sanità 24 ore” on August 2004) we wish to inform you that our company – that has been working for over 25 years in the health care informatics field – underlines the importance of a basic objective such as the improvement of the informatics technology through the use of standard methodologies to realize, together with advanced solutions, an European network data interchange.

For this purpose we are heading an experimentation about the electronic prescription and we are also starting a project that wants to simplify the technical and organizational steps that need to be done to reach the desired objective.

Here follows a short description of this project, named *DHCS*[1].

DHCS (Distributed Health Communication System)

DHCS is a distributed system that permits the electronic prescription of medicines or examinations (through the connection between existing booking management applications), the registration of diagnosis / results / selling of drugs / Pharmacovigilance.

The functionalities are collected in libraries, usable by existing external applications like those currently present to the doctor and the pharmacist.

The integration and utilization of these libraries make simpler to walk over the step of technology required for the data computerization since its origin.

It uses the most recent European (pre) standard[2] to define, store, transmit the her and the Internet to realize a network that can virtually connect the health care agent with the belonging authority or health care organization. The smart card is a way to carry information about the subject of care between standard health care systems.

The goal is to reach the compatibility with applications developed fulfilling the same standard, over geographical limits, to improve the health care assistance and the information control.

DHCS consists of two subsystems, DEHR and DHS.
DEHR (Distributed Electronic Health Record) realizes the standard infrastructure (CEN prEN13606) to store and share the healthcare information (EHCR, Electronic Health Care Record) through a distributed application.
It uses the Internet Protocol to permit the information interchange between different applications and even different countries on condition that they are using European standard methodologies and the smartcard as a way to carry the information.

DHS (Distributed Healthcare Services) uses the sub-layer DEHR and realizes the services for the health care final users: Electronic Prescription, Pharmacovigilance, the connection between existing booking management applications, and others.

Non-standard clients can access the services through specific libraries, an affordable way to use the functionalities of DHCR.
Standard clients can access the high-level functionalities shared by DHS or they can realize these functionalities in other ways and use the communication facilities provided at a lower level by DEHR.

Best regard from *Loredana Reppucci Ales*

[1]DHCS stands for *Distributed Health Communication System*
[2]CEN/TC251 prEN13606, Health Informatics: *Electronic Health record communication*

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