

Smart Open Services for European Patients

- making it possible to access your medical data when abroad -

The epSOS project is a step towards dealing with the problems that health care professionals and patients face when patients seek health care abroad. The project aims at enabling the use of electronic prescriptions (ePrescriptions), and, with the patient's consent, communication of patient information beyond nation borders. While a large number of Member States have progressed in the development of electronic patient information and ePrescriptions, the different national systems cannot communicate with each other.

epSOS aims to merge the different national solutions making it possible to communicate ePrescriptions and patient summaries across borders. The project builds on a bottom-up approach; following existing technical solutions and developing a set of specifications to ensure the interoperability of solutions, including security and identifications systems and performance criteria. In its' first phase the project have examined the maturity of existing solutions in the participating Member States, explored legal issues and developed the necessary technical specifications. In the following phase the project will define, test and validate the solutions through a large-scale pilot.

Through epSOS, health care professionals in different countries will be able to access patient information from another country, regardless of which language is spoken, or what system and technology is used. On the other hand, patients will be able to travel safely, knowing that quality care is available to them throughout Europe. Availability of patient summaries and ePrescriptions can be decisive, in particular in emergency situations, but will also make life easier for persons working and living in an EU Member State other than their home country. In the long term perspective, the epSOS project promotes citizen mobility as the result of the project will facilitate for union citizens that live, work and or travel abroad.

The Demo at the **eHealth week 2010** on 15/03 (EC stand 801) will show how the semantic services are an important aspect of the epSOS Large Scale Project. The Semantic services **address the level of processable information from which medical information is inferred**. The functional requirements of the ePrescription and Patient Summary have identified the content for three documents: ePrescription, eDispensation and the Patient Summary.

Semantic services must take into consideration at times the structure of these documents, assuring that the information is expressed using interoperable syntax, while also taking into account the code systems that are used to represent the information to be coded and translated. Furthermore, semantic services need to provide initial solutions towards semantic interoperability to overcome problems arising from usage of different terminologies and vocabularies. Terminology Access Services are also provided in order to ensure the on-the-fly interoperability between the different Member States.

epSOS consists of 27 beneficiaries representing 12 EU Member States including ministries of health, national competence centres, a research institute and an industry team of more than 30 companies. The total cost of the project is € 23 million and is co-funded by the European Commission through the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). The work, which started on 1 July 2008 and will last for 36 months, is coordinated by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions.

Further information:

Website: www.epsos.eu

E-mail: office@epsos.eu

The project is supported by the EC DGINFSO:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/health/cip_ict_psp/index_en.htm