

# Patient identity in eHealth

## Exchange of good practices in eHealth

This Action Plan for a European eHealth Area which is comprehensively described in the Communication of the Commission COM (2004) 356 “e-Health - making healthcare better for European citizens, includes a series of activities during the period 2005-2010 which are to be supported by the Commission services. One of the key points is supported by this study which is dealing with a common approach to “patient identifiers in Europe”. It will take account of “best practices” and developments in areas such as the European Health Insurance Card and identity management for European citizens. The study on Patient identity in eHealth will start from the collection of best practices in identity management in both Europe and worldwide.

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**“The study aims at outlining a common approach to “patient identifiers in Europe”**

Most software solutions in eHealth are or will be compatible with the most widely accepted standards for healthcare specific data exchange. The on-going work worldwide within patient identity management is also

### Objectives of the Study

The study will identify the present state-of-the-art in patient identity management in the eGovernment area, in inter-administration communications, and draw on the current and future implementation plans that correspond to other major countries such as the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Special attention will be paid to strengthening the concept of interoperability of eHealth systems and services in this domain by taking into account the existing standards and experiences in the domain of patient identifiers and by taking into account the current legal framework existent in EU countries.

### Study Description

The study will use available studies, initiatives, programmes, strategy papers and participant questionnaire surveys to complement available information and to collect information from EU countries.

As baseline, the following reports, projects and cases will be considered:

- The most common standards for healthcare specific data exchange will be the basic input, since identity management will be based on standardization.

based on standards. Hence, the standards will be an influential factor in defining best practice. The most widely used standards will be considered, such as HISA, EHCRA and HL7, as well as the relevant European and International standards.

- The identity model of the European Health Insurance Card, launched in June 2004, replaced the previous EU health insurance document E111 in order to simplify access to necessary medical care when traveling in the European Union. The insurance card is based on a single unique number identifying the European individual across the Member States. It also allows identification of local insurance companies or organizations. It will be studied whether these identification models might be the basis of a general approach to patient identification.
- Identity management in the Danish Health Portal ([www.sundhed.dk](http://www.sundhed.dk)), where patient identity is managed across sectors and sector systems; this system is based on the Danish “Central personal registration number”, CPR, which identifies individuals uniquely in all eHealth systems (and in all other eGovernment solutions) in Denmark. The portal project suffered, like other projects aiming to support the flow of patient records and e.g. medical information, from the lack of standards and

methods for exchanging information about locations and formats of patient information.

The analysis will be complemented with stakeholders' interviews, case studies on specific projects or clusters of projects/participants, and other data gathering and analysis methods.

### Expected outcomes

In order to outline a common approach to patient identifiers in e-Health in Europe, the consortium will carry out the following activities:

- Identification of best practices in identity management in Europe and worldwide taking into account existing standards and experience. Finishing this activity, the consortium will prepare a preliminary report with a detailed work plan and additional methodological input to the study.
- Development of a proposal for a strategy to achieve interoperability with respect to patient identifiers between existing eHealth and other health systems based on identified best practice. The proposal will approach the issue of patient identifiers at European level, that is, how to realize the proposed strategy.
- Establishment of a model of the patient identification process in different countries using the Unified Modeling Language (UML).

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**Timetable:** from 01/06 – to 12/06

**Total cost:** € 100.000

**Study n°:**

2005 / S137-135419 (lot 3)

**Keywords:**

Patient identity,  
Best practice,  
Interoperability