



24TH eHEALTH NETWORK MEETING 1 AND 2 JUNE 2023

COVER NOTE

1.5 Medical images and medical imaging reports guidelines – Release 1

1) Introduction

At the November 2022 eHealth Network meeting the Subgroup on Technical Interoperability was mandated to prepare the guidelines on Medical images and medical imaging reports.

2) Issue at stake

Following the eHealth Network guidance on key topics, the Subgroup on Technical Interoperability established a Topic Group that prepared a first draft version of the guidelines.

This version is now available for eHealth Network discussion and, afterwards, to be submitted to a broader consultation to include the views of relevant stakeholders.

3) Summary

The imaging domain is vast and complex. Imaging studies can be used in all phases of the healthcare process, by any health professional, for many purposes and using many different technologies. *Imaging studies* (a series of images) are in many cases accompanied by *imaging reports* that describe the findings and conclusions related to the imaging study. Imaging studies and imaging reports belong together, but each have their own interoperability challenges. For the imaging studies, the global (and ubiquitous) standard is DICOM. The imaging reports, on the other hand, usually have little or no basic structure. After analysis of the requirements and of the available standards, the eHN Subgroups have come to the conclusion that some parts of the interoperability puzzle are still missing. Especially for cross-border exchange, refinement of existing standards and development of new standards and profiles are to be considered in implementation projects.

This first version of the Imaging guideline provides an overview of the imaging domain, describes real-world scenarios and use cases, and proposes:

- a set of the data elements needed for imaging reports and of data elements relevant for the selection of the imaging studies for the task at hand
- architectural options for the exchange of images (that are often very large) as well as a basic selection of standards for content representation and content transmission

This first draft version of the Guideline on Medical images and medical imaging reports follows the same structure and approach as the already existing and newly created eHN Guidelines. This ensures consistency in structure and scope in all the guidelines.

Recommendations

As next step, and considering that this is the first version of these guidelines, the subgroup recommends to:

- Organise a stakeholder consultation (MS organise it at national level, EC organise it at EU-level stakeholders), focusing on the following key points:
 - Use case description (chapter 1) and guidelines (chapter 2);
 - The datasets included in the guideline;

- Standardisation options to support of the safe and interoperable exchange of imaging studies and imaging reports. Relevant SDOs will be included in the stakeholder consultation.
- The SG on Technical Interoperability will consolidate the feedback and recommendations from the stakeholders, and present Version 1.0 for adoption by the eHealth Network in November 2023.

The sg on Technical Interoperability is seeking eHN guidance on the proposed recommendations.

4) Format of procedure in the meeting

For eHealth Network

- *discussion of the Medical images and medical imaging reports guidelines draft release 1*
- *endorsement of the proposed next steps.*