



25TH eHEALTH NETWORK MEETING, 28 NOVEMBER 2023, BRUSSELS

COVER NOTE

5.1. Guidelines on Hospital Discharge Reports (*for adoption*)

Cover note/background

1) Introduction

In 2019, the eHealth Network introduced the Common Semantic Strategy. In the 22nd eHealth Network meeting late 2022, the Semantics subgroup was tasked with creating a guideline for Hospital Discharge Reports. In June 2023, the eHealth Network approved a proposal to seek broader consultation for a draft of this guideline, with the aim of final adoption in late 2023.

2) Issue at stake

The broader consultation involved reaching out to EU Member States and affiliated countries (through eHealth Network representatives), as well as to the members of both the eHealth Stakeholder Group (eHSG) and the eHealth Member State Expert Group (eHMSEG) to reveal issues to address before adoption of the guideline.

3) Summary

This comprehensive consultation process generated an impressive response, resulting in more than 700 comments. The Task Force carefully reviewed and addressed each comment individually (over more than 20 meetings and 40 hours of joint online work, since Sept. 2023) and documented the result of the review including the reason for the decision taken. Out of the feedback received, approximately 450 suggestions were integrated, approximately 180 comments resulted in additional clarifications or background information, while approximately 70 were earmarked for potential enhancements in future versions. To know more about the comments and the corresponding follow-up actions, please find more information in the [following webpage](#) and get in contact with your member state's Subgroup on semantics representative for any clarifications.

In response to the feedback received during the consultation and the subsequent follow-up actions, the Task Force revised the Hospital Discharge Report guidelines. The updated guidelines are now submitted for adoption by the eHealth Network.

The feedback received during the broader consultation can be grouped by topic and type of follow up. The following lists provide examples of the resolution of the key comments received

- Key changes implemented:
 - Revision of use case description;
 - Revision of definitions;



- Added a data element (A.2.0) for the full tree-text form of the Hospital Discharge Report;
 - To address the extensiveness of the data set, division of Section 4 (dataset) into 4.2) core set of elements (mandatory) and 4.3) full set of elements (additional optional elements);
- Key clarifications provided (i.e. explanatory text added):
 - Interplay between Hospital Discharge Reports and Patient Summary;
 - Advanced guidelines on identification, authentication authorisation, are out of scope of this document;
 - Explanation on content of dataset and its use in implementation settings added.
- Key changes to be considered in a next version of the guidelines, as this will require an overall approach to the suite of guidelines:
 - Harmonisation between all guidelines;
 - Discussions on inclusion of other health professional discharge information into the general discharge report, e.g. nursing.

4) Format of procedure in the meeting

For eHealth Network adoption of the Guidelines on Hospital Discharge Reports (release 1).