



## 25<sup>TH</sup> eHEALTH NETWORK MEETING, 28 NOVEMBER 2023, BRUSSELS

### COVER NOTE

#### 5.2. Medical Imaging Studies and Reports Guidelines V1 (*for adoption*)

##### Cover note/background

##### 1) Introduction 7

In 2019, the eHealth Network introduced the Common Semantic Strategy. In the 22<sup>nd</sup> eHealth Network meeting late 2022, the Semantics subgroup was tasked with creating a guideline for medical imaging and 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 first version of the Guideline for medical imaging studies and reports has been prepared using deliverables from the X-eHealth project. The eHN subgroup on technical interoperability has been finetuning the use case for cross-border request of medical imaging studies and reports and the functional specifications that are needed to realise this use case. Request were seen as the most relevant and beneficial use case for healthcare professionals as well as citizens as a starting point for cross-border exchange in the imaging domain within the European Union.

The dedicated task force (TF) medical images and guidelines that was set up in 2022 has been intensively assessing for the past two months all comments received from the Public consultation (19 June – 18 August 2023). The task force aimed at resolving the comments by reaching an agreement on adoption, rejection, or keeping the comment for future work, either in a next version of the guideline or to transfer to the teams that will work on technical and implementable specifications (such as the eHMSEG for the implementation in MyHealth@EU).

##### 3) Summary

After the public consultation period a total of over 530 comments were submitted by 15 different Member States, 6 stakeholders from the eHealth Stakeholder Group and the eHMSEG. The commitment of all parties was highly appreciated, especially from the stakeholders representing healthcare professionals (ESR, ECOO, CPME), industry (Digital Europe) and SDO (IHE). The TF has been having fourteen two-hour meetings during the course of September and October, dedicating 27 hours to the assessment work, apart from smaller group sessions to discuss specific topics and individual preparatory work.

All the comments, as well as the actions taken on them, are available on Confluence at <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/pages/viewpage.action?spaceKey=eHN&title=Imagi>



[ng+guidelines+-+Public+Consultation+-+Feedback+Collected](#) (page open for eHealth Network members)

A substantial number of comments contained a concern or a request for clarification. The TF aimed at providing clarifications where possible. The TF would like to express their thankfulness to all submitters and their thorough feedback. Despite not all comments may have led to updates to the text, it provides the TF inspiration for improvements on already existing general and other guidelines and for better communication in general. The TF will work on these improvements in the near future.

#### 4) Format of procedure in the meeting

*For eHealth Network adoption of the Medical Imaging and Medical Imaging Reports Guidelines VI*

### **Annex: Additional details on some of the approaches taken by the subgroup**

#### **Comments on the use case**

Some Member States suggested to split the use case 'Query with Request' into (1) request of imaging studies and (2) request of imaging reports.

The TF agreed that the combination of the imaging study and the accompanying report is of significant relevance for the healthcare professional to deliver the best possible care. Therefore, they must be considered together in the guideline to ensure that navigation between them is seamless. It is up to the individual country to decide whether to implement for example the exchange of imaging reports first, and later progress to the exchange of imaging studies (or the other way around). This way the countries will not be hindered in their national implementation plans.

#### **Next steps for medical imaging data exchange**

About 50 comments have been postponed for future technical work. They include significant input on topics related to standards selection and architectural options. This demonstrates the interest of Member States and stakeholders and their readiness to build on the momentum of this upcoming release of the guideline on medical imaging studies and imaging reports. We anticipate that the possible adoption of the guideline by the eHN will rapidly initiate the next



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

DG COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

eHealth-units

steps of the technical follow-up work, so that the expertise mobilised in the Imaging Task Force can be engaged by the entities performing this work, such as the eHMSEG.

### **Approach taken on some technical aspects**

Based on the relatively high number of comments on the matter the TF concluded there was a need for clarifying the different aspects needed in sharing images and reports cross-border, such as information on the imaging study (manifest) and report, the metadata for filtering and selecting, the accessing of the imaging study and report. Next to that the TF felt that there was a need to give explanation on the coherence with assets already in place and form preconditional aspects, such as patient and health professional identification and authentication, the NCPeH trusted framework as described in the general guidelines. This has resulted in the creation of two figures to visualise these aspects in a clearer way. Many comments on issues that are not specific for medical imaging data but rather common for multiple use cases of health data exchange were marked so that they could be addressed in the next revisions of the General guidelines.



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

DG COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

eHealth-units

In order to be consistent with the already existing guidelines for Patient Summary, ePrescription and eDispensation, and Laboratory Results, and the upcoming guidelines on Hospital Discharge Reports, the TF agreed to remove the technical details from the guideline (Chapter V). Instead, the TF provided a functional description on the way medical images and medical reports can be shared between Member States via the corresponding NCPeHs. This has also resulted in a new figure.

### **For further consideration**

Denmark submitted a general comment to the guideline consisting of 4 sections that the TF assessed as being of a more strategical nature. It indicates a need for governance on interoperability and alignment with standardisation bodies (CEN TC 251 Health Informatics and its associated SDOs by liaison, such as ISO TC 215, IHE and HL7).

### **Conclusion**

Based on the comments received and based on the positive nature seen in these comments as a general trend, the TF esteems the current version of the Guideline for medical imaging studies and reports a good starting point for sharing imaging studies and reports between Member States that are connected to MyHealth@EU. The guideline could also be used by Member States to inform national projects. The guideline allows for enhancement in terms of adding use cases in the future to better accommodate the needs of health professionals as well as citizens.

#### 5) Format of procedure in the meeting

This agenda point is for adoption