



eHealth Network

Guideline on

Patient Summary

RELEASE NOTES (Release 3, June 2021)

The eHealth Network guidelines on “*Patient Summary for unscheduled care*” are one fine example on how the eHealth Network interoperability efforts shape the way how health data exchange takes place around EU. This is the case of cross-border exchange of patient summaries (in MyHealth@EU, a.k.a. eHDSI) as well as other projects at European or national level that leverage working solutions on top of these guidelines.

The previously available release 2 of the patient summary guidelines dates from 2016 (5 years old) and since then so much has happened (i.e. eHDSI entered routine operations, EEHRxF was created, EN 17269 International Patient Summary standard published). The release 2 of the guideline has been used extensively and has been pushed to its limits. In 2019 the eHealth Network acknowledged the need to evolve to guidelines to, among other aspects, include planned care and support rare diseases.

The eHealth Network adopted (3 June 2021) the release 3 of the guideline on Patient Summary, following the contributes and consultation of an extended range of stakeholders. Please consider the following highlights from the current version:

- Almost all articles (in guidelines and support information chapters) have been revised and enhanced;
- The new guidelines open the possibility for a broader use in cross-border and national projects, since they have been cleared from eHDSI specific provisions;
- Expansion to planned care patient summary and better support in case of rare diseases;
- Introduction of *preferred code systems* according to the lessons learnt in the eHDSI;
- Enlargement and alignment of the clinical dataset towards the ISO International Patient Summary;
- Inclusion of wider “results” section to enable the communication of observation results which might have impact on future treatments, in particular i) diagnostic results (e.g. blood group, laboratory observations, imaging results etc.) and ii) physical findings (e.g. vital signs observations);
- Increased support and visibility of communicable diseases (e.g. SARS-CoV-2 infection) and related information (e.g. specific tests, alerts, travel history).

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