

## **The new CEN standard EN 17269 'The International Patient Summary'**

### **What does the new EN 17269 focus on?**

EN 17269 'The International Patient Summary' (IPS), defines a minimal dataset; one that is focussed upon the generic and important aspects of a person's healthcare history to inform continuity of care. It makes no assumptions about the specialty of the attending clinician at the point of care, wherever in the world that might be, nor whether the patient is already known by the particular healthcare provider responsible. The IPS Dataset can be used for both planned and unplanned care, providing concise, base-line information that is relevant for the treatment of any condition. Furthermore, the content of the summary should be familiar and understandable, useful on its own but also valuable as a starter set that can be complemented by more detailed data if required.

### **Why is EN 17269 important?**

Patient Summaries are ubiquitous and part of the very fabric of the healthcare domain. It is simple enough in concept, pervasive and relatively easy to implement; so much so that most, if not all, healthcare systems have their own version. Unfortunately, this popularity and familiarity of the Patient Summary make it difficult to share, which undermines its fundamental intent of informing continuity of care.

EN 17269 is not another implementation of a patient summary. Rather it is a high-level specification that is implementation-independent, and its plain language and clear layout provides a formal model that makes it easy to derive conformant implementations. As a de jure standard, EN 17269, holds out the hope that the IPS provides a single, recognised solution as a sustainable template for useful and usable content for both planned and unplanned care across the globe.

### **What is the impact and benefits to the individual, society, and/or industry?**

Impacts and benefits are 'outcomes', dependent upon 'outputs' certainly - but they are longer-term propositions. It is probably wise to be cautious and not to overstate EN 17269's importance at the outset. However, data have to be used in practice if they are to have value and, given the enthusiastic international commitment to the pre-published standard, there is strong confidence that it will be used and be useful. Given that, our expectations are:

- For **Individuals**, IPS offers better informed continuity of care available to us as patients who require care ourselves and/or for those we care for.
- For **Society** as a whole, IPS supports a base-line for international care regardless of locality, supporting travel and discovery throughout the world, be it for business, research or pleasure.
- For **Industry**, IPS provides a single solution that is both stable and extensible in a controlled manner; a standard means to unlock global health data exchange in a step-wise fashion. For the consumer, it avoids lock-in to non-standard patient summary implementations.

### **Why is it innovative?**

Patient summaries are not 'new'. Arguably, they are as old as medical practice and there are no 'green-field' sites to be found.

IPS, however, is innovative in that it maintains its unique purpose of summarising a person's healthcare history, whilst also enabling its contents to become reusable building blocks suitable for construction of other applications. The joining and assembling of the IPS components in the manner



they are, provides a new opportunity to establish a single global standard, the International Patient Summary that can support derivable, conformant implementations that actually support continuity of care for all.

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