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AS 5017—2006

Australian Standard®

Health Care Client Identification

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This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee IT-014, Health Informatics. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 8 June 2006.
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- Ocean Informatics
- La Trobe University
- Sun Microsystems
- Systems Innovation in Health

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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through public comment period.

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Australian Standard®

Health Care Client Identification

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee IT-014, Health Informatics, to supersede AS 5017—2002, and in response to requests from the health service provider community.

This Standard is the result of health industry concern about the myriad of data storage formats used for basic but critical client identification data.

The objective of this Standard is to provide the health industry with a specific Standard for Health Care Client Identification for clinical and administrative data management purposes (data structure and specification) which promotes uniformly good practice in identifying individuals and recording identifying data so as to ensure that each individual's health records will be associated with that individual and no other. The Standard also provides the basis for future linkage of data as authorized by law and appropriate for clinical management of patients and statistical research purposes.

This Standard should be read in conjunction with HB 222, *Australian Health Care Client and Provider Identification Handbook*. In addition, this Standard is closely related to AS 4846, *Health Care Provider Identification*. For example, when client health information is shared between various health care providers for purposes of clinical management, AS 4846 may be used to ensure the unique identification of the health care provider.

In this edition, the scope of the Standard has been limited to Health Care Client Identification in Australia only. In the future, consideration will be given to New Zealand and international requirements.

This Standard does not supersede any Standards (other than AS 5017—2002) but rather acts as a consolidation of best practice principles and guidelines for collection and storage of Health Care Client Identification data. Where they exist, Standards already in use in health care have been sourced in preference to generally applicable Australian Standards.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An informative appendix is only for information and guidance.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) approved funding for individual and provider identifiers on 10 February 2006, and the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) is tasked with implementing both initiatives. A detailed requirements review and specification phase will commence. At the time of publication, NEHTA was still undertaking this initial phase of work and therefore was not in a position to provide appropriate feedback on these standards. Throughout the course of the projects, NEHTA will consider this Standard and AS 4846 in conjunction with HB 222, and in the context of the national identifiers requirements, to enable a consistent suite of relevant standards. NEHTA will ensure comments are provided following the completion of this work for consideration in the next iteration of the Standards and Handbook.

Standards Australia wishes to thank the Department of Health and Ageing for their continued financial support in helping us to achieve our aims.

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