



National Standards Authority of Ireland

IRISH STANDARD

ENV 12539:1997

ICS 11.040.50
35.240.70

National Standards
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**MEDICAL INFORMATICS - REQUEST AND
REPORT MESSAGES FOR DIAGNOSTIC
SERVICE DEPARTMENTS**

*This Irish Standard was
published under the
authority of the National
Standards Authority of
Ireland
and comes into effect on
June 30, 1998*

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Údarás um Chaighdeán Náisiúnta na hÉireann

EUROPEAN PRESTANDARD

ENV 12539

PRÉNORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE VORNORM

March 1997

ICS 11.040.50; 35.240.70

Descriptors: medicine, diagnosis, data processing, information interchange, data transfer

English version

Medical informatics - Request and report messages for diagnostic service departments

Informatique de santé - Messages de demandes et
de comptes rendus de service de diagnostic

Medizinische Informatik - Anforderungs- und
Ergebnismitteilungen für diagnostische
Dienstleistungsstellen

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CEN

European Committee for Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation
Europäisches Komitee für Normung

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FOREWORD

This European Prestandard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 251 "Medical informatics", the secretariat of which is held by IBN.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to announce this European Prestandard: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

INTRODUCTION

The increased use of data processing and telecommunications capabilities has made possible the interchange of information in machine readable and machine processable formats. As automated interchange of information in healthcare increases, it is essential to provide appropriate standards.

Computer systems are used for the storage and processing of information in many diagnostic service departments. Many of those asking for and receiving results of investigations also use computer systems to store and process patient related information. This information includes details of investigations requested and results received. Diagnostic service departments carry out investigations requested by healthcare parties and send the results of these investigations to requesters and sometimes to other healthcare parties.

Electronic transfer of requests and results, reduces the need for manual data entry and the risk of transcription errors. It also results in greater efficiency, leading to better healthcare provision. Standards are required to facilitate electronic transfer of requests for, and results of, investigations between the many systems currently used.

Implementation of this European Prestandard will therefore :

- a) facilitate the electronic transfer of orders for diagnostic services from requesting healthcare parties, to diagnostic service departments;
- b) facilitate the electronic transfer of reports from diagnostic service departments to requesters and other healthcare parties;
- c) reduce the need for human intervention in information interchange between applications used by diagnostic service departments and those used by other healthcare parties;
- d) minimise the time and effort required for the introduction of information interchange agreements;
- e) reduce the development effort required by suppliers to allow communication between a wide range of applications in this field;
- f) reduce the cost of information interchange between diagnostic service departments and parties requesting diagnostic service department services.

When implementing information exchange based on this European Prestandard, data security services including confidentiality provisions must be ensured according to the laws actually in force in the different CEN member countries.

The method by which this European Prestandard has been developed is based on the recommendations of the CEN Report "Investigation of Syntaxes for Existing Interchange Formats to be used in Healthcare" (CR 1350:1993). Extensions to the method, proposed by CEN TC251 PT3-025 while this document was being drafted, have also been applied where possible and relevant.

This standard is intended for use by message developers. Its provisions are directly relevant to suppliers of computer systems for use in diagnostic service departments, hospitals, general practices, clinical departments and specialist clinics. Its provisions are also relevant to those planning, specifying, procuring or implementing information systems for use in diagnostic service departments, hospitals, general practices, clinical departments and specialist clinics.

The main normative provisions in this European Prestandard are expressed in clauses 4 and 5 and apply to the General Message Descriptions (GMDs), clause 7.

The symbols used in this Prestandard have the meaning as defined in normative annex A for the purposes of this Prestandard only. Informative annex B explains how the Domain Information Model relates to actual requests and reports. Informative annex C gives a number scenarios as examples of message use.

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