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MEDICAL INFORMATICS - HEALTHCARE
INFORMATION FRAMEWORK (HIF)

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Údarás um Chaighdeán Náisiúnta na hÉireann

EUROPEAN PRESTANDARD
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English version

Medical Informatics - Healthcare Information Framework (HIF)

This European Prestandard (ENV) was approved by CEN on 7 November 1996 as a prospective standard for provisional application.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
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Contents

Foreword	3
Introduction	4
Medical Informatics - Healthcare Information Framework Error! Bookmark not defined.	
1 Scope	5
2 Normative references.....	5
3 Definitions	6
4 Conceptual Architectural Framework	7
4.1 Healthcare domain view.....	7
4.2 Technology view.....	8
4.3 Performance requirements view.....	9
5 Healthcare Reference Architectures	9
6. Conformance requirements	10
Annex A (informative): Conformance to the Healthcare Information Framework	11
Annex B (informative): Description of the Healthcare Information Framework	14
Annex C (informative): Bibliography	31

Foreword

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

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

Annexes A, B and C are informative.

Introduction

With the rapid growth of informatics applications in healthcare it is becoming increasingly necessary for the existence of standards for standard makers. The Healthcare Information Framework (HIF) is one such standard.

Healthcare informatics has, as its first objective, to give doctors better ways to treat their patients using a quicker, safer and more complete access to information. The information includes that related to the patient (the medical record), to knowledge (knowledge database) and to resources.

This European Prestandard sets out to establish general concepts, requirements, relationships, context and the terminology to be used in subsequent developments of specific standards for healthcare domain specific informatics standards.

The normative portion of this European Prestandard is intended for use by healthcare informatics domain specific standards writers and, in particular, standards writers concerned with Healthcare Reference Architectures. Specific requirements for conformance are defined in Annex A "Conformance to the Healthcare Information Framework." Domain experts may find that an initial review of Annex A provides a useful context for a reading of the overall document. Annex B "Description of the Healthcare Information Framework" provides an informative view of the role of the Healthcare Information Framework. It is intended for reading by healthcare informatics experts who have an interest in standardisation and wish to understand the intent of this document in the arena of healthcare informatics standards development.

This European Prestandard builds upon and embodies the work of the Bangemann committee and, in particular, one of the elements of the key architectural constructs. This element is the technology view which uses the same layering principle.

The writing of this European Prestandard revealed not only the wealth of information available but also the diversity and so to avoid prolonged debate it covers the common ground within the healthcare informatics arena. Subsequent parts to cover new areas of conformance as well as a wider audience to encompass suppliers of components, system integrators and healthcare professionals will eventually be required.

The Healthcare Information Framework (HIF) takes into account that

- heterogeneity is a characteristic of existing healthcare;
- multiple architectures are needed to provide optimised support for different healthcare processes and healthcare users;
- healthcare organisational structures, processes and technologies evolve continuously due to external and internal pressures for change;
- a top-down approach may be used.

The Healthcare Information Framework also takes into account that doctors should finally have access to technology, which is not the case at the moment, and therefore shows how technology should support their work in the future.

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