

Abstract for Karlstad Summer School, August 2007.

Identifiers and eHealth: a stakeholder view

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This afternoon's workshop will explore both social and ethical issues related to identifiers in eHealth through the active participation of attendees. By drawing on issues raised in the morning plenary session on 'eHealth and ethics', the workshop aims to deepen understanding regarding the implementation of appropriate identifying features, including by taking a stakeholder perspective.

To quote the provisional findings of the recently-completed i2Health project, co-financed by the European Commission:

“Information and information technologies (ICT) are currently deployed on a broad scale in healthcare. European Member States are struggling to deploy promising eHealth services under high pressure The fundamental use case of eHealth is making medical information quickly available for a better and more efficient treatment of patients. In electronic healthcare the reliable identification of actors is crucial for all interactive processes. High volume use cases like delegated diagnostic procedures, cooperative treatment, prescriptions, surveillance, and reimbursement procedures need to proceed fluently without inconsistencies and tracking efforts. By this eHealth can be reduced to a transmission of information on someone (who?) between actors (again who?). An appropriate implementation of identification management guarantees correct attribution of information and access control to guard privacy.”

Diane Whitehouse and Penny Duquenoy will begin the afternoon with brief presentations that give background and direction, and will act as facilitators for the discussions. The afternoon is intended to be highly interactive with participants working together on short exercises, exchanging views and taking part in discussions. Relevant background reading will be provided in advance of the workshop.

Expected outcomes of the workshop are:

- A set of core issues related to identifiers in eHealth, focusing on issues of a social and ethical nature
- Identification of the specific issues related to electronic health records (and 'patient summaries') in eHealth from a social and ethical perspective
- An overview of key stakeholders in eHealth
- A stakeholder perspective on eHealth identifiers, electronic health records, and patient summaries that incorporates the views of: patients, policy-makers, and systems' designers.

To meet the objectives of the workshop, and provide participants with adequate time to share background information, discussion and exchange, this workshop will occupy an afternoon session (including a break). The workshop structure is outlined below.

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

First session: Identifiers in eHealth

- 13.30 Introductory remarks and workshop overview (Diane Whitehouse)
- 13.45 Identifying the key issues in terms of identifiers in eHealth (all)
- 14.15 Feedback and summarising remarks (Penny Duquenoy)

14.30-15.00 Coffee Break

Second session: Electronic health records and patient summaries

- 15.00 Electronic health records and patient summaries (Diane Whitehouse)
- 15.15 Designing a patient summary (facilitated small group work)
- 15.45 Groups prepare reports on findings

Third Session: Common ground among the stakeholders

- 16.00 The practice: three sets of findings (patients, policy-makers, and systems' designers): presentations by the groups
- 16.30 Discussion on common ground (all)
- 16.45 Summarising remarks: Diane Whitehouse and Penny Duquenoy

The workshop will conclude at 17.00.