EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG HEALTH AND CONSUMERS
DG COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

eHealth-units

6ᵀᴴ EHEALTH NETWORK 18 NOVEMBER 2014
COVER NOTE BY SECRETARIAT

Topic 5:   Standardisation process and eHealth – *for discussion*

Issue at stake

The eHealth Network adopted the EU guidelines on Patient summary in November 2013 and the Guidelines for ePrescription are proposed for adoption at this meeting.

In parallel, standardisation processes and related initiatives are taking place on the same topics at EU and international level: the identification of ICT technical specifications (IHE profiles) for the implementation of ePrescription and Patient Summary solutions and a standardisation project by HL7 aimed to define an International Patient Summary template.

The purpose of the discussion is to inform the Members on the differences between guidelines, ICT technical specifications and standards, and to discuss the role of the eHealth Network (and the supporting Joint Action) in standardisation activities. Both concerning the Patient Summary and ePrescription guidelines, and on overall input to the eHealth standardisation work programme.

Summary of document

A discussion document, prepared by the Secretariat, illustrates how the eHealth Network can effectively be involved in the various processes at EU and international level on eHealth standards and technical specifications. It also suggests a possible role of the Standardisation Platform as defined in the Multi-annual Work Programme 2015-2018.

Format of procedure in the eHN

The EC Chair will introduce the topic. Paul Timmers, Director of the Sustainable & Secure Society Directorate in DG CONNECT, will present slides on the overall governance of standardisation and the possible role of the eHealth Network (and supporting Joint Action).

The eHealth Network members are requested to:
 – Discuss the activities of the eHealth Network in EU standardisation for eHealth. For example, the eHealth Network could have a role in planning future EU standardisation activities for eHealth;
 – Discuss the possibilities to develop a European Standard based on specific items in the Patient Summary guidelines.