



# eHealth Network

Guideline on

# Hospital Discharge Report

RELEASE NOTES (Release 1.0, Nov 2023)

The eHealth Network (eHN) are happy to announce the publication of a new guideline on Hospital Discharge Reports, which was approved on 28 November 2023. This now completes a set of 5 guidelines which have been approved, ePrescriptions/eDispensation, Patient Summary, Laboratory Reports, & Medical Imaging. Together these 5 guidelines, marks a milestone for an agreed format for interoperability and sharing of key information in healthcare settings for all EU Member States.

The eHN guidelines on Hospital Discharge Report (HDR) are the latest example on how the eHN interoperability efforts shape the way how health data exchange takes place around EU. The HDR guidelines are the foundation for the cross-border exchange of hospital discharge reports in MyHealth@EU and can as well inspire other projects at European or national level.

The first release of the eHN HDR guidelines results from the combined efforts of EU projects, stakeholders' contributions, Member States recommendations and concerns. A broad consultation conducted while preparing the guidelines generated impressive amount of feedback, resulting in more than 700 comments. The feedback received was carefully reviewed and each comment addressed individually (over more than 20 meetings and 40 hours of joint online work).

Out of the feedback received, approximately 450 suggestions were integrated, approximately 180 comments resulted in additional clarifications or background information, while approximately 70 were earmarked for potential enhancements in future versions. The feedback received during the broad consultation can be grouped by topic and type of follow up. The following lists provide examples of the resolution of the key comments received:

- Key changes implemented:
  - Revision of use case description;
  - Revision of definitions;
  - Added a data element (A.2.0) for the full tree-text form of the Hospital Discharge Report;
  - To address the extensiveness of the data set, division of Section 4 (dataset) into 4.2) core set of elements (mandatory) and 4.3) full set of elements (additional optional elements);
- Key clarifications provided (i.e. explanatory text added):
  - Interplay between Hospital Discharge Reports and Patient Summary;

- Advanced guidelines on identification, authentication authorisation, are out of scope of this document;
  - Explanation on content of dataset and its use in implementation settings added.
- Key changes to be considered in a next version of the guidelines, as this will require an overall approach to the suite of guidelines:
  - Harmonisation between all guidelines;
  - Discussions on inclusion of other health professional discharge information into the general discharge report, e.g. nursing.

The result of the revision including the follow up to each comment, is duly documented. To know more about the comments and the corresponding follow-up actions, please get in contact with your eHealth Network Subgroup on Semantics member state representative.

Following the structure of other eHN guidelines, the release 1.0 of the HDR guidelines provides guidance about:

- The most likely use case for cross border exchange of hospital discharge reports;
- The business level requirements for implementors of systems exchanging hospital discharge reports;
- Additional information to support the implementation of hospital discharge reports exchanges;
- Detailed description of the dataset for hospital discharge reports, including core and additional data elements, as well as indication of the preferred code systems for data element.
- Examples and references to illustrate possible implementations of the hospital discharge reports dataset and its exchange.

To be noted that this version should be used as a platform for future improvements considering the many aspects of interest identified during the consultation phase and should be object of reflection and consideration.

For further information, please contact the eHealth Network secretariat at:

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