eHealth Network

RECOMMENDATION

on

a revised concept for the Guidelines for Patient Summaries and ePrescriptions

The eHealth Network is a voluntary network, set up under article 14 of Directive 2011/24/EU. It provides a platform of Member States' competent authorities dealing with eHealth. The Joint Action supporting the eHealth Network (JAseHN) provides scientific and technical support to the Network.

Adopted by consensus by the eHealth Network, Amsterdam, 7 June 2016

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
CEF	Connecting Europe Facility
CG	Coordination Group
EHN	eHealth Network
eP	electronic Prescription
JAseHN	Joint Action to support the eHealth Network
OFW	Organisational Framework
PS	Patient Summary

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1. Purpose

This paper provides an update on the guidelines for Patient Summaries (PS) and ePrescriptions (eP). It proposes

- a restructuring of the guidelines
- a re-scheduling of the dates for adoption

and seeks eHealth Network (eHN) suggestions for stakeholder engagement prior to submission of the revised guidelines for adoption in November 2016.

2. Background

The plan from the Joint Action to support the eHealth Network (JAseHN) was that the revised PS guidelines would be approved in November 2015, with eP in November 2016 and Disease Registers in November 2017. In September 2015, the Coordination Group (CG) decided to postpone the PS update, on the grounds that some of the input (e.g. the D6.1 report on implementation of the original guidelines) was not available. The aim at that point was to submit the revised PS guidelines for adoption at the June meeting of the eHN.

In preparing the updates to the PS guidelines, however, it was noted that there were considerable overlaps with the eP document, and a potential for inconsistencies between the two.

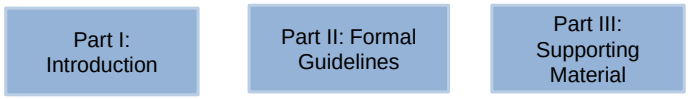
3. Proposal for Restructuring of the Guidelines

It is therefore proposed that the structure of the guideline documents be revised, with one generic guideline, to which an Annex would be added for each use case. The diagram below illustrates how the core set of generic guidelines is supplemented by Annexes for each use case.

JAseHN Revised Guidelines

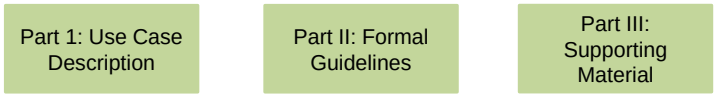
The revised guidelines are structured as follows:

Core cross-border guidelines, containing common requirements such as legal and organisational plus generic semantic and technical content
[text in red is taken from JAseHN D5.1.1 "Organisational Framework"]

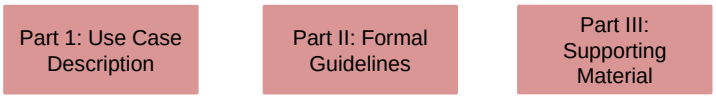


Annex A: Patient Summary

Contains specific requirements / guidance on Patient Summaries



Annex B: ePrescription



Annex C: Disease Registers, etc.

Whilst the structure has been changed, the aim is that the content remains largely unchanged. A number of additions have been made to reflect the Organisational Framework (OFW) adopted by the eHN in November 2015. The text imported from the OFW is shown in red type so that readers can easily see the additions.

4. Progress to Date

A version of the re-structured guidelines was circulated to JAseHN T5.3.1 team members in February 2016 to reflect this proposal. However, until 15 March the majority of core team members for T5.3.1 were engaged in the development of applications for the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), and were not able to contribute to the review of the early draft. Because of this, it has not yet been possible to achieve a stable version suitable for engaging with the wider stakeholder community.

Whilst there was still an opportunity to conduct a limited consultation allowing completion of a version for the June eHN meeting, the T5.3.1 task leaders considered this to be high-risk, for the following reasons:

- We have still to receive sufficient comments from team members on the revised structure. Whilst there appears to be general agreement, there are changes, including the incorporation of material from the OFW, which need careful consideration
- The process of preparing the CEF applications has itself raised issues and amendments that need to be reflected in the guidelines
- There are some known gaps (e.g. in the legal area) which need to be addressed
- A number of detailed amendments to the Annexes have been received following the work in Expand; these are still to be processed

- Stakeholder engagement was an important part of the process followed in each of 2013 and 2014 for the current guidelines. Following earlier representations, it is important that sufficient opportunity is given to enable a wider audience to review and contribute to the drafts.

It is therefore proposed that the PS and eP updates be processed in parallel, with a view to submission to eHN in November for adoption.

5. Potential Impact

The guidelines need to be in place ready for commencement of the CEF services. According to the common project plan used in the application process, wave 1 sites would commence activity in February 2017 and go live in February 2018. It is important, therefore, that both PS and eP guidelines are adopted in November in preparation for wave 1 to start.

6. Recommendation

It is proposed that submission of the revised guidelines be postponed to the November meeting. However, to help prepare for this, and to mitigate the risk of failure to adopt in November, eHN members are asked to:

- Agree in principle the restructuring of the guidelines
- Advise on the process for engaging with stakeholders
- Raise any concerns or issues which they would like to be addressed.

7. Annex – GUIDELINE on electronic exchange of health data under the Cross-border Directive 2011/24/EU (separate document)