

# ICT Standardization in WHO's Proposed E-Health Strategy

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# Overview

- E-Health at WHO
- ICT Standardization in WHO's E-Health Strategy
- WHO Collaborations
- Standardization activities and examples
- References and contact information

# E-Health at WHO

- E-Health is a new official area of work for the organization
- There are multiple E-Health units within the different divisions and regional offices of the organization
- Health technical units also engage in E-Health activities

# ICT Standardization in E-Health

- Two specific sections in the proposed E-Health area of work directly cover ICT standardization
- Other sections require work supporting ICT standardization for health in order to be accomplished
- A lot of the work will be accomplished in partnership with public and private organizations around the world

# ICT Standardization in E-Health

Section 1.5 – Members states are urged

*“To mobilize multisectorial collaboration for determining evidence-based eHealth standards and norms, evaluate eHealth activities, and to share the knowledge of cost effective models, thus ensuring quality, safety and ethical standards.”*

# ICT Standardization in E-Health

Section 2.6 - the director general is requested

*“to provide support to member states to promote the development, application and management of national standards of health information; and to collect and collate available information on standards with a view to establishing national standardized health information systems in order to facilitate easy and effective exchange of information among member states.”*

# ICT Standardization in E-Health

- WHO uses public private partnerships, as stipulated by the UN millenium goal 8, target 18
- WHO is member of working groups such as the eHSCG
- WHO works with specific working groups to develop ICT standards
- WHO itself publishes its own set of coding standards

# WHO Collaborations

- E-Health Standardization Working Group (eHSCG)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



# WHO Standardization Activities

- Coding standards such as ICD10, INN, and ICF
- Numbering such as a global clinical trial identifier scheme
- Operational ICT standards for addressing specific health needs, such as an electronic minimal data set for ART tracking in Africa

# Example – ICD10

- Semantic coding standard
- Adapted by different organizations and health agencies into an electronic specification for national use

# Example – Clinical Trial Identifiers

- A global standard for assigning a unique identifier to clinical trials
- Done in partnership with private organizations and pharmaceutical companies

# Example – ART Minimal Data Set

- A minimal data set to specify what information is required to clinically manage a patient
- Translated to an HL7 specification by a working group which includes EMR implementers.
- Will allow for the creation of a large data corpus in Africa from which indicators can be easily computed and epidemiological studies can be run
- First step to supporting broader EMR efforts in Africa

# References

## ■ Executive Board 115, resolution 20, eHealth

This document contains the proposed resolution describing the eHealth area of work for WHO which is expected to be passed in May 2005.

[http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/EB115/B115\\_R20-en.pdf](http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB115/B115_R20-en.pdf)

## ■ WHO web site

Describing WHO's E-Health and other activities.

<http://www.who.int>

## ■ ICD10 Geman SGML

An SGML adaptation of ICD10 in German, produced by the German Institute of Medical Documentation and Information

<http://www.dimdi.de/en/klassi/diagnosen/icd10/index.htm>

# Contact Information

Inquiries regarding WHO's ICT standardization and other eHealth activities can be answered through email:

[ehealth@who.int](mailto:ehealth@who.int)