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## Health informatics — Cloud computing considerations for the security and privacy of health information systems

*Informatique de santé — Considérations relatives à l'informatique en nuage pour la sécurité et la confidentialité des systèmes d'information de santé*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

This document identifies core Electronic Health Record (EHR) security and privacy requirements where cloud computing services are utilized. Additional requirements may also be needed where local legal or regulatory requirements exist. Potential additions or modifications can be considered by the cloud service providers in their contractual arrangements.

Cloud computing usage and adoption is becoming popular for healthcare applications worldwide. However, there are health information systems in the market that were not originally designed to operate in such an environment. The appeal and reasons for use that lead to cloud computing adoption are varied, but the available solutions do not always take into account the necessary security and privacy precautions and the necessary measures for secure use of this platform. Migration is a key consideration, as is the design of new systems to account for this type of environment.

The security and privacy of EHRs are paramount considerations for organizations that use health information systems based on cloud services, and for the patient's trust and confidence that their information is processed and stored safely and securely.

This document includes perspective of health information on cloud computing and health informatics requirements. It also provides guidance on selecting service providers in the public cloud for safely locating healthcare data, and confidential patient information (including solutions on handling of data off-shoring).



# Health informatics — Cloud computing considerations for the security and privacy of health information systems

## 1 Scope

This document provides an overview of security and privacy considerations for Electronic Health Records (EHR) in a cloud computing service that users can leverage when selecting a service provider.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **application capabilities type**

*cloud capabilities type* (3.2) in which the *cloud service customer* (3.8) can use the *cloud service provider's* (3.11) applications

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17788:2014, 3.2.1]

### 3.2

#### **cloud capabilities type**

classification of the functionality provided by a *cloud service* (3.5) to the *cloud service customer* (3.8), based on resources used

Note 1 to entry: The cloud capabilities types are *application capabilities type* (3.1), *infrastructure capabilities type* (3.24) and *platform capabilities type* (3.31).

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17788:2014, 3.2.4]

### 3.3

#### **cloud computing**

paradigm for enabling network access to a scalable and elastic pool of shareable physical or virtual resources with self-service provisioning and administration on-demand

Note 1 to entry: Examples of resources include servers, operating systems, networks, software, applications, and storage equipment.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17788:2014, 3.2.5]

### 3.4

#### **cloud deployment model**

way in which *cloud computing* (3.3) can be organized based on the control and sharing of physical or virtual resources

Note 1 to entry: The cloud deployment models include community cloud, hybrid cloud, private cloud and public cloud.