

Health informatics - Pseudonymization (ISO  
25237:2017)

## EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

## NATIONAL FOREWORD

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Standard on jõustunud sellekohase teate avaldamisega EVS Teatajas	This standard has been endorsed with a notification published in the official bulletin of the Estonian Centre for Standardisation.
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ICS 35.240.80

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English Version

Health informatics - Pseudonymization (ISO 25237:2017)

Informatique de santé - Pseudonymisation (ISO  
25237:2017)

Medizinische Informatik - Pseudonymisierung (ISO  
25237:2017)

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels

## European foreword

This document (EN ISO 25237:2017) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 215 “Health informatics” in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 251 “Health informatics” the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by July 2017, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by July 2017.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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### Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 25237:2017 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 25237:2017 without any modification.

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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)).

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For an explanation on 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*.

## Introduction

Pseudonymization is recognized as an important method for privacy protection of personal health information. Such services may be used nationally, as well as for trans-border communication.

Application areas include, but are not limited to:

- indirect use of clinical data (e.g. research);
- clinical trials and post-marketing surveillance;
- pseudonymous care;
- patient identification systems;
- public health monitoring and assessment;
- confidential patient-safety reporting (e.g. adverse drug effects);
- comparative quality indicator reporting;
- peer review;
- consumer groups;
- field service.

This document provides a conceptual model of the problem areas, requirements for trustworthy practices, and specifications to support the planning and implementation of pseudonymization services.

The specification of a general workflow, together with a policy for trustworthy operations, serve both as a general guide for implementers but also for quality assurance purposes, assisting users of the pseudonymization services to determine their trust in the services provided. This guide will serve to educate organizations so they can perform pseudonymization services themselves with sufficient proficiency to achieve the desired degree of quality and risk reduction.



# Health informatics — Pseudonymization

## 1 Scope

This document contains principles and requirements for privacy protection using pseudonymization services for the protection of personal health information. This document is applicable to organizations who wish to undertake pseudonymization processes for themselves or to organizations who make a claim of trustworthiness for operations engaged in pseudonymization services.

This document

- defines one basic concept for pseudonymization (see [Clause 5](#)),
- defines one basic methodology for pseudonymization services including organizational, as well as technical aspects (see [Clause 6](#)),
- specifies a policy framework and minimal requirements for controlled re-identification (see [Clause 7](#)),
- gives an overview of different use cases for pseudonymization that can be both reversible and irreversible (see [Annex A](#)),
- gives a guide to risk assessment for re-identification (see [Annex B](#)),
- provides an example of a system that uses de-identification (see [Annex C](#)),
- provides informative requirements to an interoperability to pseudonymization services (see [Annex D](#)), and
- specifies a policy framework and minimal requirements for trustworthy practices for the operations of a pseudonymization service (see [Annex E](#)).

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 27799, *Health informatics — Information security management in health using ISO/IEC 27002*

## 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:

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

### 3.1

#### access control

means of ensuring that the resources of a data processing system can be accessed only by authorized entities in authorized ways

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 2382:2015, 2126294]