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Health informatics - General purpose information components - Part 4: Message headers

Informatique de santé - Composants d'information à usage général - Partie 4: En-têtes de message

Medizinische Informatik - Allgemeine Mehrzweck-Komponenten für Nachrichten - Teil 4: Allgemeine klinische Komponenten

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TS 14822-4:2005) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 251 “Health Informatics”, the secretariat of which is held by SIS.

This is part four of the multi part standard EN 14822: Health informatics - General purpose information components with the following parts:

Part 1: Overview

Part 2: Non-Clinical

Part 3: Clinical

Part 4: Message headers

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to announce this CEN Technical Specification: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Introduction

Many previous messaging and information structure standards for health have overlapping parts with a number of objects being defined in separate documents, sometimes with small variations making implementation of conformant applications more difficult. It therefore makes sense to define a set of general purpose components that can be used for definition of message structures for different purposes. This approach was suggested and approved as a strategy for CEN/TC 251 in the Short Strategic Study on message standards alignment in 1999 examining a set of five European Standards for messages. This Technical Specification is aiming to provide such a set of components and has been developed jointly with a new European Standard for Service Request and Report messages that is using the components defined herein.

Another important background to the development of this Technical Specification has been the wish for a harmonisation of information models for health developed in Europe and the USA expressed in the collaboration agreement entered March 2000 between CEN/TC 251 and HL7 (Health Level Seven, Ann Arbor. Michigan). The goal was set for a maximum degree of alignment while maintaining their independence and need to serve the business requirements of the respective markets but also to make the results available to ISO for possible international standardization.

HL7 have adapted a general strategy similar to CEN/TC 251 using information modelling expressed in UML (Unified Modelling Language) for their new standards and a lot of interaction and information sharing has occurred between CEN experts and HL7 in an open spirit of collaboration.

This Technical Specification includes a large number of objects which are technically identical to descriptions in draft documents of HL7, although partly described differently due to the fact that CEN is following the ISO rules for drafting and presentation of standards which HL7 is not. CEN wishes to express its gratitude towards HL7 experts for generously sharing their models with the European expert team.

This part 4 document is definition of a set of message header General Purpose Information Components.

1 Scope

It is now widely or even universally accepted that computer systems that are used within healthcare to record information about the care given to patient's need to share that information with other computer systems and their users. In order that computer systems may share information effectively there is a requirement that the communicating parties, and particularly their computer systems have a common understanding of how the information which they are sharing is represented.

This sharing of representation needs to take place at a number of levels, most notably at the data representation or syntactic level which is the subject of CEN/TS 14796, but also at the macro or semantic level where groupings of data are used to provide a context or set of contexts for the data. This part 4 of the standard is limited to descriptions of components concerned with messaging, and in particular the message and batch headers.

2 Normative References

Not applicable.

3 Terms and Definitions

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

3.1
batch
collection of messages

3.2
communicating party
person, organisation or device which acts in the role of a sender or receiver of a communication

3.3
communication
techniques for the effective transmission of information, ideas, etc. [Longmans 1995]

3.4
healthcare agent
healthcare person, healthcare organisation, healthcare device or that performs a role in a healthcare activity

3.5
message
communication in writing, speech or by signals

3.6
organisation
unique framework of authority within which a person or persons act, or are designated to act towards some purpose

NOTE Groupings or subdivisions of an organisation may also be considered as organisations where there is need to identify them for information interchange. [ISO/IEC 6523-1]