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English version

Medical Informatics - Healthcare Information Framework (HIF)

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The period of validity of this ENV is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the ENV can be converted into a European Standard.

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Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Foreword | 3 |
| Introduction | 4 |
| Medical Informatics - Healthcare Information Framework Error! Bookmark not defined. | |
| 1 Scope | 5 |
| 2 Normative references..... | 5 |
| 3 Definitions | 6 |
| 4 Conceptual Architectural Framework | 7 |
| 4.1 Healthcare domain view..... | 7 |
| 4.2 Technology view..... | 8 |
| 4.3 Performance requirements view..... | 9 |
| 5 Healthcare Reference Architectures | 9 |
| 6. Conformance requirements | 10 |
| Annex A (informative): Conformance to the Healthcare Information Framework | 11 |
| Annex B (informative): Description of the Healthcare Information Framework | 14 |
| Annex C (informative): Bibliography | 31 |

Foreword

This European Prestandard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 251 "Health informatics", the secretariat of which is held by SIS.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to announce this European Prestandard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Annexes A, B and C are informative.

Introduction

With the rapid growth of informatics applications in healthcare it is becoming increasingly necessary for the existence of standards for standard makers. The Healthcare Information Framework (HIF) is one such standard.

Healthcare informatics has, as its first objective, to give doctors better ways to treat their patients using a quicker, safer and more complete access to information. The information includes that related to the patient (the medical record), to knowledge (knowledge database) and to resources.

This European Prestandard sets out to establish general concepts, requirements, relationships, context and the terminology to be used in subsequent developments of specific standards for healthcare domain specific informatics standards.

The normative portion of this European Prestandard is intended for use by healthcare informatics domain specific standards writers and, in particular, standards writers concerned with Healthcare Reference Architectures. Specific requirements for conformance are defined in Annex A "Conformance to the Healthcare Information Framework." Domain experts may find that an initial review of Annex A provides a useful context for a reading of the overall document. Annex B "Description of the Healthcare Information Framework" provides an informative view of the role of the Healthcare Information Framework. It is intended for reading by healthcare informatics experts who have an interest in standardisation and wish to understand the intent of this document in the arena of healthcare informatics standards development.

This European Prestandard builds upon and embodies the work of the Bangemann committee and, in particular, one of the elements of the key architectural constructs. This element is the technology view which uses the same layering principle.

The writing of this European Prestandard revealed not only the wealth of information available but also the diversity and so to avoid prolonged debate it covers the common ground within the healthcare informatics arena. Subsequent parts to cover new areas of conformance as well as a wider audience to encompass suppliers of components, system integrators and healthcare professionals will eventually be required.

The Healthcare Information Framework (HIF) takes into account that

- heterogeneity is a characteristic of existing healthcare;
- multiple architectures are needed to provide optimised support for different healthcare processes and healthcare users;
- healthcare organisational structures, processes and technologies evolve continuously due to external and internal pressures for change;
- a top-down approach may be used.

The Healthcare Information Framework also takes into account that doctors should finally have access to technology, which is not the case at the moment, and therefore shows how technology should support their work in the future.

1 Scope

This European Prestandard establishes the Healthcare Information Framework (HIF) as a logical mapping between the healthcare environment and informatics applications which support and facilitate clinical and other functions.

This European Prestandard specifies the set of requirements, recommendations and guidelines which apply to developments within CEN/TC 251 which enable consistent development and evolution of healthcare domain specific informatics standards.

This European Prestandard is applicable to, and will be primarily used by, healthcare domain specific informatics standards writers and, in particular, those writing Healthcare Reference Architectures standards.

2 Normative references

This European Prestandard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Prestandard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references, the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

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| ISO 1087 | 1990 | Terminology - Vocabulary |
| ISO 7498 | 1992 | Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Basic Reference Model |
| ISO/IEC 2382-1 | 1993 | Information technology - Vocabulary -Part 1: Fundamental terms |
| ISO/IEC 2382-20 | 1990 | Information technology - Vocabulary - Part 20: System development |
| ISO/IEC 9646-1 | 1994 | Information technology - Open Systems Interconnection - Conformance testing methodology and framework - Part 1: General concepts |