
**Health informatics — Health cards —
General characteristics**

*Informatique de santé — Cartes de santé — Caractéristiques
générales*



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Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 Abbreviated terms	3
5 Physical characteristics	3
6 Visually readable data	3
6.1 Purposes of visually readable data.....	3
6.2 Items of visually readable data.....	3
6.3 Field identifier of visually readable data.....	5
7 Recording technique	5
7.1 Recording technique for visually readable data.....	5
7.2 Magnetic stripes.....	5
7.3 Integrated circuits with contacts.....	5
7.4 Contactless integrated circuits.....	5
7.5 Optical memory.....	5
7.6 Other recording technique.....	6
8 Test method	6
Annex A (informative) Examples of field identifiers written in Latin-1 code	7
Annex B (informative) Examples of healthcare card layout	8
Bibliography	12

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).

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).

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

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 WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

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

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 20301:2006), of which it constitutes a minor revision.

Introduction

The purpose of using machine-readable cards in the field of healthcare is to improve the quality of health service and the efficient use of healthcare resources in the field. The primary consideration in creating this International Standard has been to improve patient service and patient safety, as well as improve the practical use of healthcare cards in clinical fields.

Standardizing the clinical practice of medicine and defining a standardized healthcare delivery service structure are not included in this International Standard.

In years past, healthcare cards have been used to exchange healthcare data by placing necessary and appropriate information on the surface of the cards in order to implement the health service of each country. However, as people now move more frequently across borders, healthcare cards issued in one country or area are increasingly being used in another, and with this consideration in mind, this International Standard has been designed to apply to healthcare cards that will be used internationally.

It would be pertinent for ISO/TC 215 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 17 to discuss the standardization of the characteristics and operation of other cards, which are not covered by this International Standard.

This International Standard is designed to accept relevant technologies and recording techniques for cards.

The data elements and data structures in healthcare cards are under consideration within ISO/TC 215.

Health informatics — Health cards — General characteristics

1 Scope

This International Standard describes general characteristics of machine-readable cards used in the field of healthcare.

This International Standard is designed to confirm the identities of both the healthcare application provider and the healthcare cardholder in order that information can be exchanged by using cards issued for healthcare service.

This International Standard focuses on the machine-readable cards of ID-1 type defined in ISO/IEC 7810 that are issued for healthcare services provided in a service area that crosses the national borders of two or more countries/areas.

This International Standard applies directly or refers to existing ISO standards for the physical characteristics and recording techniques. Security issues follow the requirements of each healthcare card system.

In addition, this International Standard regulates the visual information written on the card.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 21549-1:2013, *Health informatics — Patient healthcard data — Part 1: General structure*

ISO 21549-2:2004, *Health informatics — Patient healthcard data — Part 2: Common objects*

ISO/IEC 7810, *Identification cards — Physical characteristics*

ISO/IEC 7811 (all parts), *Identification cards — Recording technique*

ISO/IEC 7812-1, *Identification cards — Identification of issuers — Part 1: Numbering system*

ISO/IEC 7816 (all parts), *Identification cards — Integrated circuit cards*

ISO/IEC 10373 (all parts), *Identification cards — Test methods*

ISO/IEC 10536 (all parts), *Identification cards — Contactless integrated circuit(s) cards — Close-coupled cards*

ISO/IEC 11693 (all parts), *Identification cards — Optical memory cards*

ISO/IEC 14443 (all parts), *Identification cards — Contactless integrated circuit cards — Proximity cards*

ISO/IEC 15420 (all parts), *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — EAN/UPC bar code symbology specification*

ISO/IEC 15438 (all parts), *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — PDF417 bar code symbology specification*

ISO/IEC 15693 (all parts), *Identification cards — Contactless integrated circuit cards — Vicinity cards*