

Call for Papers - Special Issue on eHealth Systemic Interoperability

Introduction

Guest Editors, Ed Hammond and Evelyn Hovenga are calling for papers for a special issue on eHealth Systemic Interoperability for the electronic Journal of Health Informatics (eJHI). We see the need to provide an overview of all aspects of this topic as a business case and an essential prerequisite to support key decision makers. The eJHI is an international journal committed to scholarly excellence and dedicated to the advancement of Health Informatics and information technology in healthcare. eJHI is a truly open access journal - it provides open access both for authors (i.e. no publication fee or page charges) and for readers (i.e. free access to all papers). All papers will go through the usual peer review process; final selection of a comprehensive set of papers for publication will be made by the Guest Editors.

Topics

Submissions are invited on all topics relevant to eHealth Systemic Interoperability, including but not limited to the following interoperability types:

- Human Computer Interface – data entry, presentation , consistency and fit with workflow
- Security/privacy- standards, technical management
- Business – consider data interchange triggers, profiles to suit all functions and business transactions
- Communications – technical and people to suit workflow
- Legal, ethical and societal- legislation, management of individual rights, cultures versus safe care and the public good
- Environmental – resource and service availability, access, new technologies, population density
- Stakeholder - consider who all might be involved in the process of ordering a lab tests, getting the specimen, process the test, reporting the results and storing the results as part of an EHR
- Semantic – consider unambiguous data element definition, data type, units, a value set, synonyms, other functional attributes depending on the nature of the data element
- Functional – meeting all stakeholder information needs in a reliable, effective and sustainable way
- Technical – standards and identifiers

Systemic interoperability is an essential requirement of e-health systems as only then are we able to enhance appropriate care via complete sets of data about any patient and combine these data to provide reliable clinical decision support systems. Data must be of a quality that permits life and death decision making. Patient safety is enhanced by the provision of complete and timely data at the point of care. This

enables the provision of effective and appropriate treatment and care. Patient satisfaction and trust is enhanced by a care giver who knows all about the patient, without the patient having to remember and repeat a full medical history. We need to be able to integrate new knowledge quickly into patient care. We also need to be able to track and manage immunizations and health acquired infections, identify emerging epidemics such as SARS, avian flu, others, evaluate regional and national differences in care looking at process and outcomes, evaluate prevalence of disease to influence research; evaluate treatments based on outcomes; expand knowledge about disease and treatments, better understand factors causing disease by geo-regions, social status, economic status, race, other as well as support public health and security, provide continuity of care in natural disasters and support researchers. Systemic interoperability is the fundamental building block enabling us to realize these many functions. Achieving this common vision requires us all to work together enabling experts to make proper decisions that are mandated by Governments. There are many perspectives of interoperability that need to work in harmony to be effective. This special issue intends to explore each of these perspectives to provide a more complete picture and enable improved understanding of the many issues that we need to address internationally and collaboratively.

Guest Editors

This Special Issue of eJHI is guest-edited by :

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Submission and Deadline

Please submit all papers via the Journals Online Submission system at <http://www.ejhi.net>, and use the journal's template for the preparation of your paper and follow the Author's Guidelines. When submitting please ensure that the paper is submitted as a Special Issue Paper. The deadline for all submissions is **31 January 2009**.