
Knowledge management of health information standards

Gestion des connaissances des normes en information de la santé



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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Terms and definitions	1
3 Symbols and abbreviated terms	2
4 Overview	2
4.1 General	2
4.2 Issues of knowledge management	2
4.3 Knowledge structure	3
4.4 Sharing knowledge between standards developers and standards users	4
5 Health informatics standards classification	4
5.1 General	4
5.2 Classification considerations	4
5.3 Classification review	5
6 Improving knowledge exchange between developers and users	9
6.1 General	9
6.2 Organized information for users in published standards	9
6.3 Standardized contributions to knowledge resource tools	10
6.4 User feedback	10
7 Knowledge management tools	10
7.1 General	10
7.2 Tools for visual exploration	11
Annex A (informative) Description of HIS-KR/Spider/SKMT toolset	12
Bibliography	13

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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

In exceptional circumstances, when a technical committee has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard ("state of the art", for example), it may decide by a simple majority vote of its participating members to publish a Technical Report. A Technical Report is entirely informative in nature and does not have to be reviewed until the data it provides are considered to be no longer valid or useful.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this Technical Report may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/TR 13054 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*.

Introduction

Health informatics standards are in progressive production by different standards development organizations. They respond to current challenges in health information system implementation. These standards are intended to promote more effective systems in coherent evolution and provide benefits in many different contexts, for developed and developing countries. Of importance therefore is that these standards can be accessible and understandable by many different health information system protagonists and implementers.

With the increasing number of health informatics standards and health information system implementations, there is an imperative need to support different categories of person who need to know about these standards. These persons include developers, implementers, planners, and health information system users, health informatics standards developers and standards developers in domains other than health.

It is expected that the increasing availability of knowledge will:

- improve awareness between standards developers, including different contextual needs,
- ensure more rapid understanding and uptake by system developers,
- ensure better, more supportive understanding of the role and importance of standards by information system implementers and general users of health information systems.

The word 'informatics' rather than 'information' is chosen a) with reference to the title of ISO/TC 215, b) in recognition of the broad meaning now assumed by informatics rejoining technological and information management issues, However this word is less familiar to some sector communities working in areas where standards of information processing and management are relevant to a successful health system; an example might be SDMX for health indicator reporting. Such standards are deemed within the purview of this Technical Report.

This Technical Report contributes to the emerging use of electronic communications in the development and evaluation of standards. It is noteworthy in addressing communication between standards developers and users.

This Technical Report was developed in meaningful conjunction with ISO/TR 14639, *Health informatics — Capacity-based eHealth architecture roadmap*, with a view that this usefully provides an integrated context for understanding the role of different health information standards, as well as a test for the relevance of individual standards for countries developing health information systems and their policies. Also considered is the potential to provide feedback to standards developers.

NOTE The World Health Organization-sponsored The Registry of Open Access Data Standards (ROADS) initiative also provides input for considerations of availability of health information standards to developing countries.

