
**Health informatics — Service
architecture (HISA) —**

**Part 1:
Enterprise viewpoint**

Informatique de santé — Architecture de service —

Partie 1: Point de vue de l'entreprise

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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 of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 251, *Health informatics*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 12967-1:2009), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- use of terms, definitions and concepts from ISO 13940:2015 (Contsys), with textual alignment throughout the document including figures, to the extent possible and beneficial;
- reference to further standards, such as HL7® and FHIR®;
- addition of abstraction layers supplementing the viewpoint descriptions;
- introduction of example functions from ISO/HL7 10781 supporting the use case examples of this document;
- addition of [Annex C](#), Cross-Domain Interoperability, in line with the current (2020) ongoing ISO Interoperability and Integration Reference Architecture standardization initiative;
- updates to the Bibliography.

A list of all parts in the ISO 12967 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

The healthcare organizational structure consists of networks of centres (hospitals of different types and sizes and outpatient clinics for primary and secondary care within a geographical area) distributed over the territory, characterized by a high degree of heterogeneity and diversity, from organizational, logistic, clinical, technological and even cultural perspectives. The structure of individual centres evolves from a vertical, aggregated organization towards the integration of a set of specialized functional areas (e.g. unit of laboratory analyses, unit of surgery), with specific needs and characteristics, nevertheless needing to share common information and to operate according to integrated workflows. Such a situation determines two main needs which conflict with each other in a certain way. On the one hand, it is necessary to effectively support the specific requirements of each unit or user in the most appropriate and cost-effective way whilst, on the other hand, it is vital to ensure the consistency and integration of the overall organization, at local and territorial levels. This integration requirement is not only related to the need for improving clinical treatments to the subject of care but is also demanded by the urgent necessity of all countries to control and optimize the current level of expenditure for health, whilst ensuring the necessary qualitative level of services to all subjects of care.

The large number of databases and applications, mutually isolated and incompatible, which are already available on the market and operational in healthcare organizations to support specific needs of users, cannot be underestimated. Even within the same centre, healthcare information systems are frequently fragmented across a number of applications, data and functionalities, isolated and scarcely consistent with each other.

In the present circumstances, the main need for care delivery organizations is to integrate and to make available the existing information assets, and to make possible the integration and interoperability of existing applications, thereby protecting investments. During integration activities, continuity of service needs to be achieved whilst gradual migration of existing proprietary, monolithic systems towards the new concepts of openness and modularity occurs. The cost-effectiveness of the solutions, especially when projected on the scale of the whole healthcare organization, represents another crucial aspect to be evaluated carefully.

A further aspect is related to quality management (see bibliography), where information management is an integrated part of quality management and the strategic and operative approaches for these two managerial aspects need to be co-ordinated to be effective. Clinical processes are comprehensive. Systematic and structured information management including medical knowledge management is required for high-level quality in effective healthcare systems.

The aims can be achieved through a unified, open architecture based on middleware independent from specific applications and capable of integrating common data and business logic and of making them available to diverse, multi-vendor applications through many types of deployment. According to the integration objectives at organizational level, all aspects (i.e. clinical, organizational and managerial) of the healthcare structure should be supported by the architecture, which should therefore be able to comprise all relevant information and all business workflows, structuring them according to criteria and paradigms independent from specific sectorial aspects, temporary requirements or technological solutions.

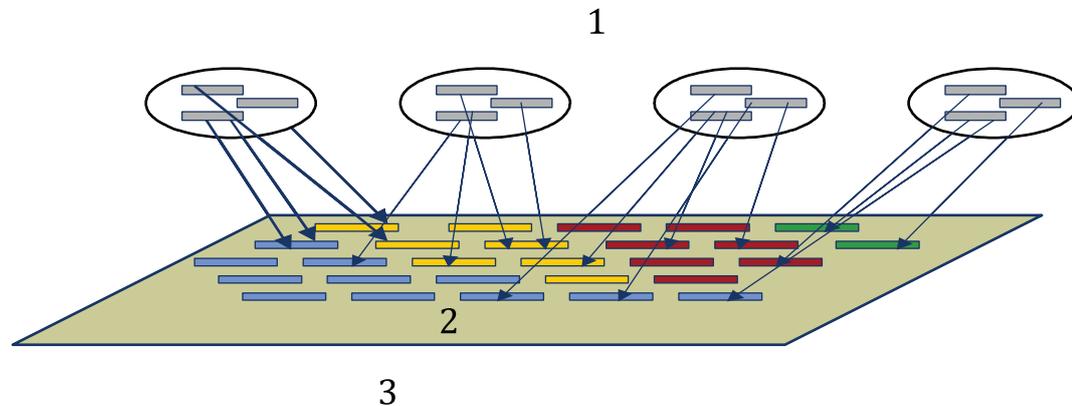
Standards and technological solutions already exist and will continue to be defined for supporting specific requirements, both in terms of in situ user operations and with respect to the movement of information. The architecture should be able to accommodate such requirements by allowing the specific models to be integrated with the complete information assets of the healthcare organization and e.g. communication messages to be “services” extracting or importing data from/to the common information shown in [Figure 1](#).

On the basis of these considerations, the purpose of the ISO 12967 series is twofold:

- identify a methodology to describe healthcare information systems through a language, notation and paradigms suitable to facilitate the planning, design and comparison of systems;

- identify the fundamental architectural aspects enabling the openness, integration and interoperability of healthcare information systems.

The architecture is therefore intended as a basis both for working with existing systems and for the planning and construction of new systems.



Key

- 1 specific models and communication interfaces (e.g. CDA, FHIR, ISO 13606, DICOM)
- 2 common, neutral, organisation-wide HISA model
- 3 integrated and consistent heritage of all common enterprise data and common business logic

Figure 1 — Complementarity and positioning of the architecture with other standards and models

It is pointed out that the ISO 12967 series does not aim to define a unique model for clinical, organizational, managerial or administrative activities, but rather defines a set of workflows, information and services common to all healthcare information systems, relevant for any healthcare sector and usable by any application also for facilitating the mutual interworking.

Similarly, the ISO 12967 series does not aim to represent a final, complete set of specifications. On the contrary, it formalizes only fundamental aspects, identified as common in all countries and considered to be currently essential in any advanced healthcare information system. Specifications are formalized, avoiding any dependency on specific technological products and/or solutions.

In line with the above, HISA neither explicitly addresses major trends within healthcare in 2020 such as "Patient Engagement" or "Patient Registries/Patient Data Hubs". HISA nevertheless also supports these trends and might very well be used in connection herewith, providing further support for information exchange, to the benefit of the patient, or for structured and systematic information management regarding research, clinical databases, knowledge application and quality improvement.

The ISO 12967 series, therefore, is an open framework that, according to the specification methodology and preserving the compatibility with previous versions, can be extended during time according to the evolution of the healthcare organization both in the individual (national and local) contexts and through international standardization initiatives.

A European pre-standard, ENV 12967, developed according to such rationale during 1993 to 1997 and published in 1998, was the basis for implementations of middleware products and implemented integrations in healthcare regions in several countries. In 2000, the CEN/TC 251 Short Strategic Study on Health Information Infrastructure identified a number of other new architectures and health infrastructure initiatives, as well as the requirements and possibilities for alignment with the large body of information model standards developed by CEN for various communication purposes. European standardization initiatives have delivered a number of object-oriented domain models and message descriptions that include an architecture for the Electronic Health Record [ISO 13606 (all parts)], and a concept model of healthcare (ISO 13940:2015). In the last ten years ISO, HL7 and CEN have increasingly collaborated and both the ISO 13606 (all parts) and ISO 13940:2015 have undergone major systematic