



ATHENS
+ DIGITAL
HEALTH
WEEK

The use of the Patient Summary

Athens Digital Health Week 2025
Capacity Building / Education Track
Dr Robert A. Stegwee

[ePatient Dave](#)





Agenda

- The Patient Summary – what is it?
- The Patient Summary – how to use it?
- The Patient Summary – its clinical value
- The Patient Summary – a set of standards



The Patient Summary – what is it?



Some relevant (conceptual) terms

- Electronic Health Record
 - Person/patient Centered
 - Longitudinal
 - Comprehensive
 - Life-long
- Electronic Health Record System
 - Limited to a (group of) provider organisations and/or professionals
 - Maintains a limited portion of the Electronic Health Record
- Personal Health Record System
 - Patient (or representative) is controller of the data
 - Healthcare provider EHR data may be included



The Patient Summary

What it is ...

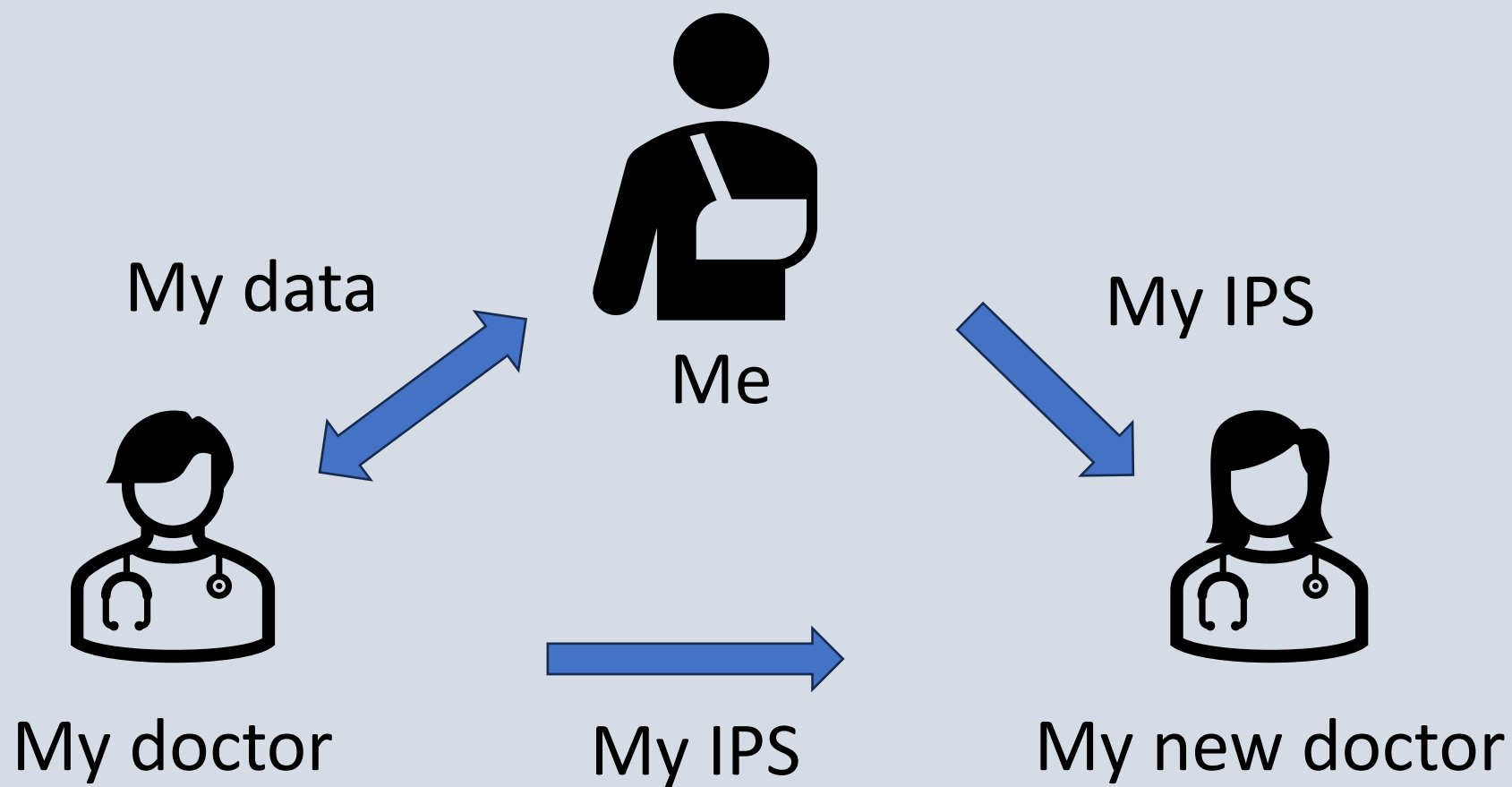
- minimal dataset
- basic clinical data
- patient specific
- specialty agnostic
- condition independent
- readily usable
- by all clinicians
- for the delivery of care

What it is not ...

- exhaustive dataset
- extensive clinical data
- aggregated across patients
- specialty specific
- condition dependent
- for further processing
- by specific clinicians
- for secondary purposes



Supporting communication in care





New doctor: What can you tell me?

- Patient details (name, date-of-birth, identifiers)
 - Problems (type, description, diagnosis, onset date)
 - Medication list (product, strength, doseform, instructions)
 - Allergies and Intolerances (reaction, agent, severity)
-
- *These are all current patient data, coded as much as available, but also with narrative text to be readily usable by all clinicians*
 - *If you don't know, please DO tell me you don't, otherwise I might assume there are none (problems, medications, allergies)*



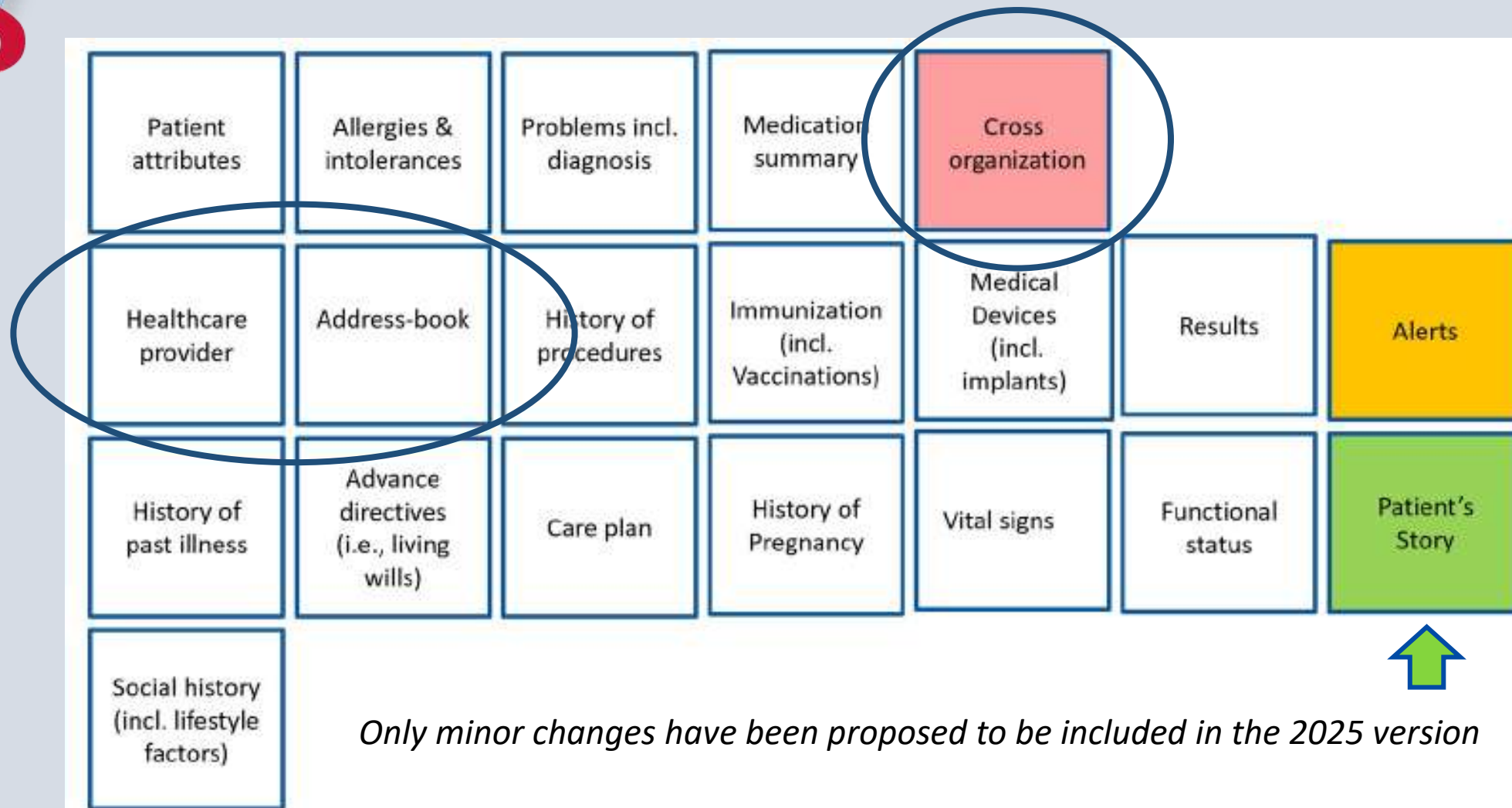
I'll give you a summary



- And I even might add
 - Vital signs
 - Advance directives
 - Functional status
 - Medical devices
 - History of pregnancy
 - History of past problems
 - Social history
 - Plan of care



We've identified 20 macro datablocks



Only minor changes have been proposed to be included in the 2025 version



What you put in there is well described

- Definitions, examples, and structure up to five levels deep
- Of course, it is a best effort to create a patient summary:
 - My doctor can do it for me, based on what health data she has
 - The Electronic Health Record system might be very helpful
 - I can do it myself, based on the health data I have access to
 - A Personal Health Record system might be very helpful
 - An application can automatically create one, based on the data it has access to
 - In FHIR the Patient resource has a \$summary operation that does exactly that!



The Patient Summary – how to use it?

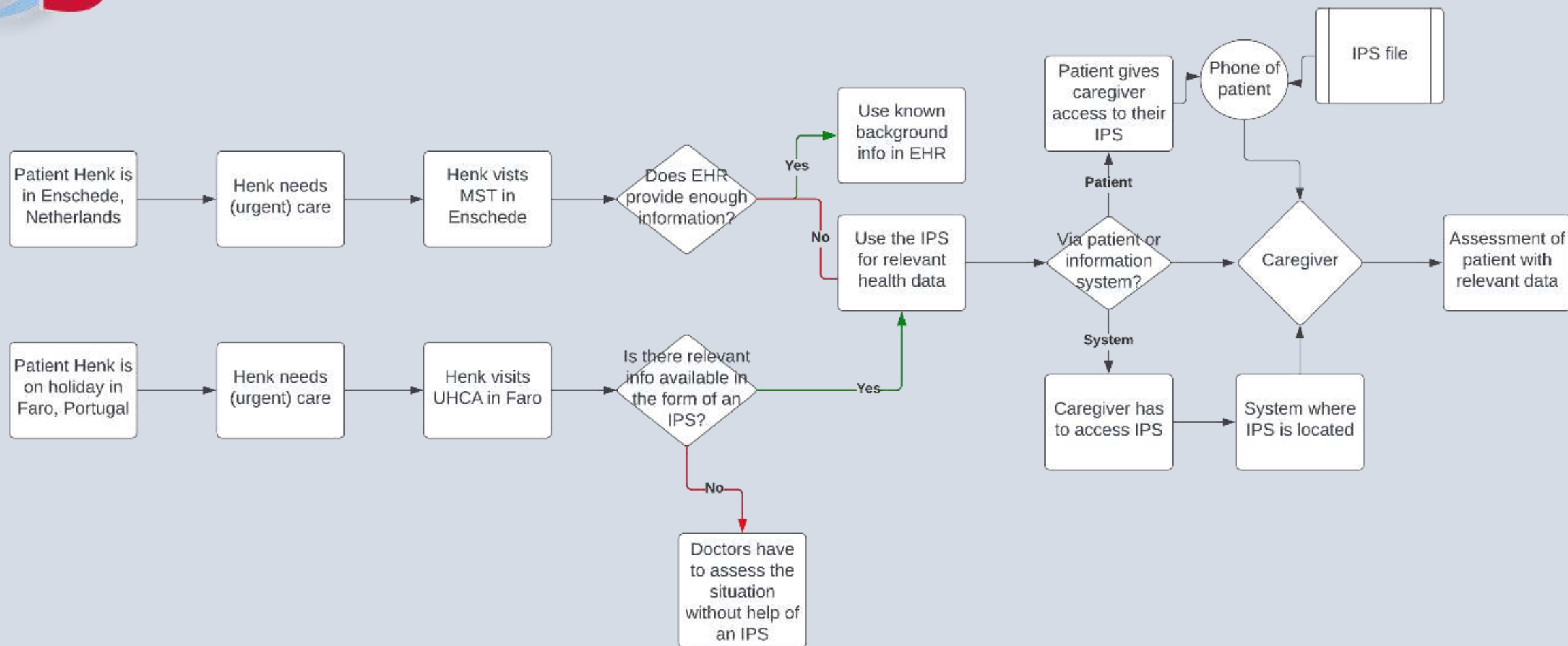


Having the information doesn't help

- The story of the medication list in the referral letter
- **Using the information is the only way it will help you**
- What does that mean???
 - In terms of access to information
 - In terms of processing of information
 - In terms of embedding it in your daily routines



An example process flow





Key elements of process design



How much can be done in preparation of the healthcare professional actually seeing the patient?



How much can be done within the regular digital work environment of both professionals and support staff?



How much can the patient do themselves?



There is no “one-size-fits-all” for use

- Specific settings ask for specific designs, for example:
 - A GP out-of-hours office, where a patient calls in, might have a digital pre-triage, which can be accessed by the triage nurse
 - An Accidents and Emergency unit in a hospital, when a patient is brought in by an ambulance, might receive more detailed data directly from the ambulance (current vital signs, for instance)
 - A walk-in surgeon’s office for tourists, might have the ability to scan the mobile device of the patient and access the IPS directly
- Even though the setting is different the datablocks in the summary remain the same - using them will be different!

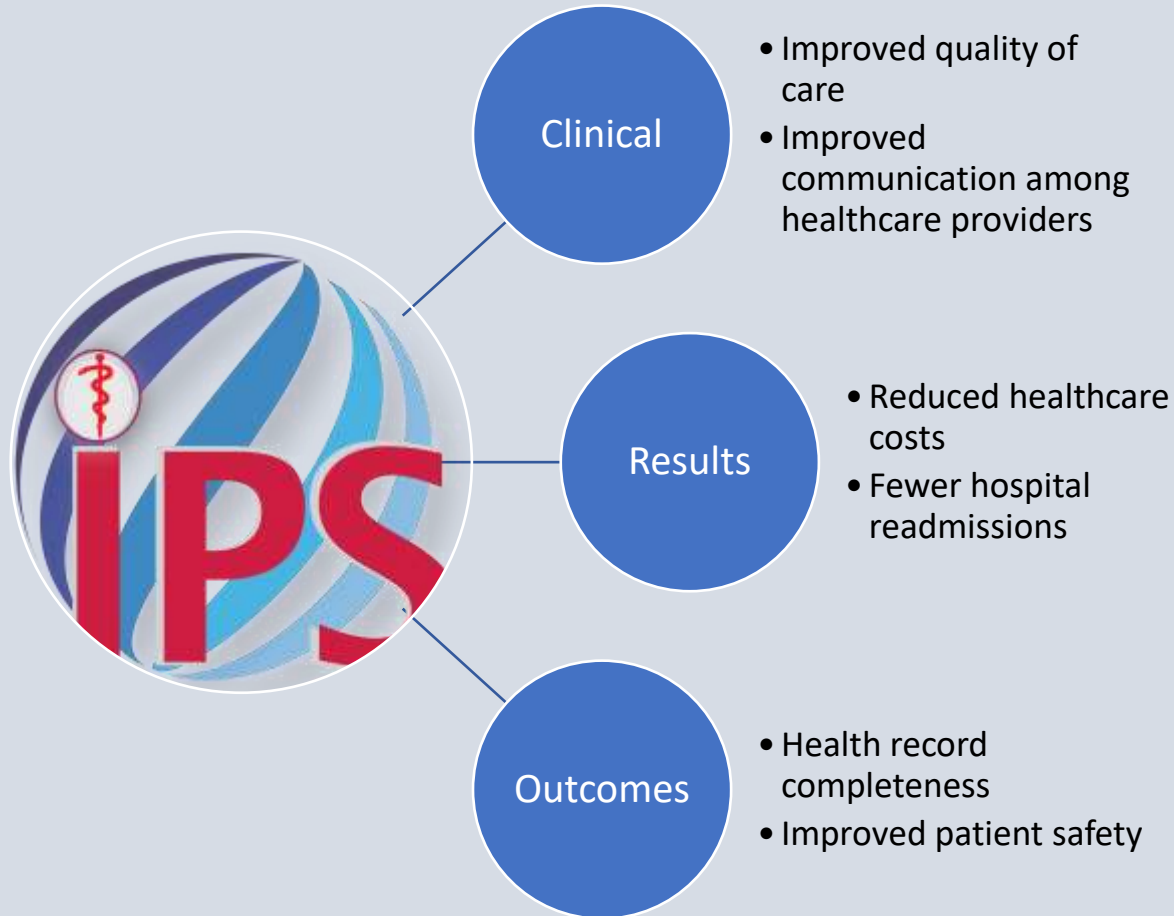


The Patient Summary – its clinical value

DJOWIN SCHIPPERS	SUPERVISORS	SUBMISSION DATE
s2147912 Msc. Health Sciences Optimization of Healthcare Processes MSc. Business Administration Digital Business & Analytics	dr.ir. Ton Spil (HS/BA) dr. Shawn Donnelly (HS) dr.ir. Erwin Folmer (BA) External supervisor dr. Robert Stegwee (Transformational Consulting in eHealth)	08/05/2024 



The clinical value of a summary



Systematic review of the literature

<https://international-patient-summary.net/exploring-the-clinical-value-of-the-international-patient-summary-a-systematic-review/>



Interviews to back up the findings

"I think it took 1600 keystrokes and 500 mouse movements to get through the patient file."

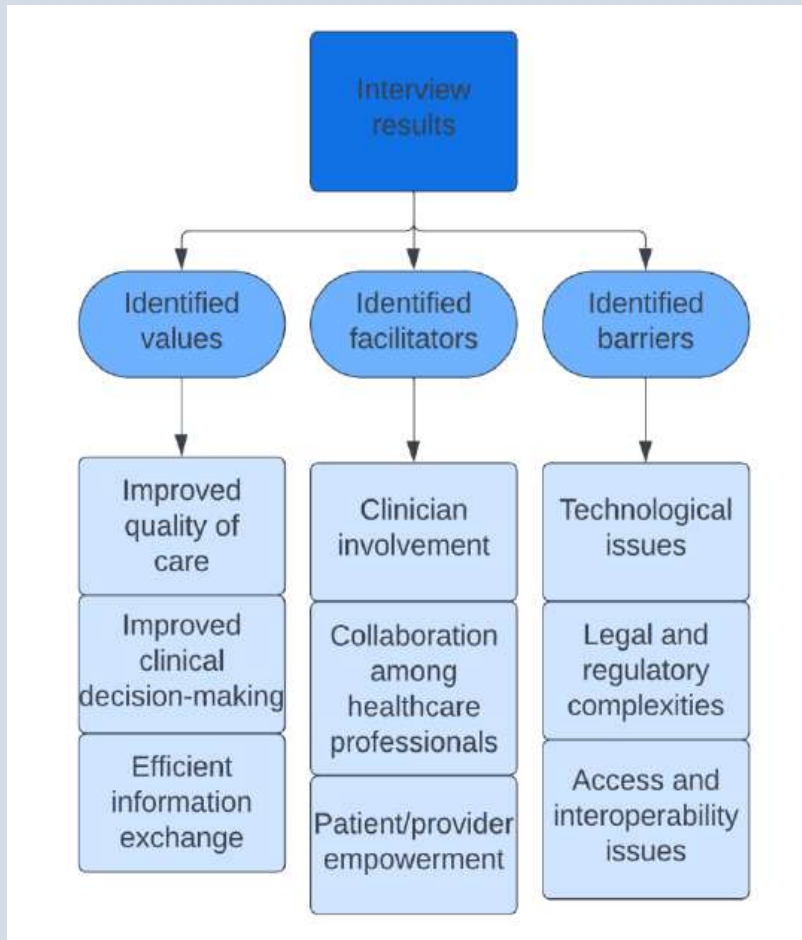
"I do not know anything about that person. The patient states that his own GP can share everything. That is a link to the local GP post, but I cannot see anything. I have absolutely nothing."

"Missing certain kinds of information is just not good. It really creates a risk for the patient. Having that information available is thus very useful."

"In any case, when developing such a system, I think it is important that clinicians remain involved at every step."



Recommendations



- The value comes from using the patient summary
- Awareness among professionals needs to be increased
- Experts need to shift their focus to adoption – the requirements and standards are sufficient for large scale implementation

Adoption interviews with clinicians

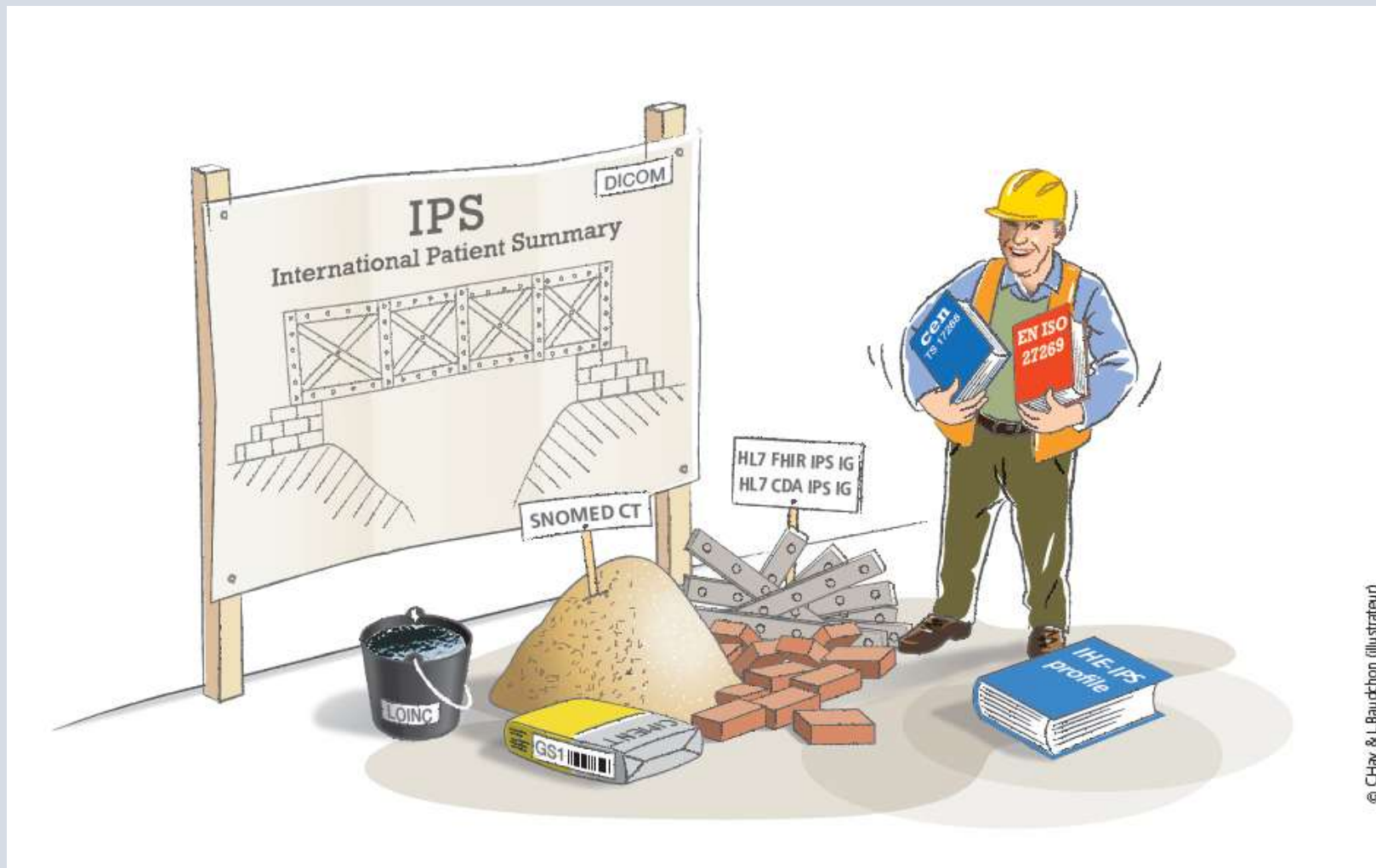
<https://international-patient-summary.net/the-adoption-and-diffusion-of-the-international-patient-summary/>



The Patient Summary – a set of standards



A resounding collaborative effort





EN ISO 27269 Health Informatics IPS

- Full title:
 - EN ISO 27269:2022 Health informatics — International patient summary (ISO 27269:2021)
 - ISO 27269:2021(en) Health informatics — International patient summary
- Defines the core data set for a patient summary document that supports continuity of care for a person and coordination of their healthcare.



HL7 FHIR Implementation Guide

- Full title:
 - HL7 FHIR International Patient Summary Implementation Guide
 - <https://hl7.org/fhir/uv/ips/> - version 1.1.0
- Provides an implementation of the EN ISO datablocks with HL7 FHIR resources, including terminology bindings and other restrictions
- A FHIR Server can implement the \$summary operation on the Patient resource to actually produce a FHIR IPS Document



IPS Clinical Terminology

- HL7 FHIR often references SNOMED Clinical Terms for terminology bindings
- SNOMED CT values are used in the EU Patient Summary pivot document to enable translation into all European languages
- SNOMED International agreed to provide these Patient Summary SNOMED terms for free – the IPS Free Set
- As of 2022, SNOMED also provides the IPS Terminology for free



HL7 CDA Implementation Guide

- Full title:
 - HL7 CDA® R2 Implementation Guide International Patient Summary, Release 1
- Actually the first IPS standard to be published
 - The US Continuity of Care Document is CDA based
 - The European Cross-Border eHDSI pivot document is CDA based
 - The EU Trillium Bridge and the HL7 InterPAS projects both worked under the EU-US Transatlantic eHealth/Health IT Cooperation Roadmap to connect the EU and US patient summaries
 - The EU Standardisation Request for the Patient Summary was answered by CEN in close collaboration with HL7 and IHE, continuing the work of Trillium Bridge and InterPAS



IHE content and sharing profiles

- For purposes of conformance testing, IHE provides:
 - IPS profile – a content profile that provides testable conformance statements for an IPS document, both in HL7 CDA and in HL7 FHIR
 - sIPS profile – a sharing profile for HL7 FHIR IPS Documents, linking the IPS to the regular document sharing infrastructure that IHE describes
- IPS Theme during the IHE North America Connectathon 2025



provide guidance for EU

eHN EU PS
Guideline

refine

CEN
EN ISO 27269

CEN
TS 17288



IPS Global Standards and Specifications

equivalent

align

ISO 27269

implement

implement

SNOMED CT
IPS Free Set
IPS Terminology

use

use

align

HL7
IPS CDA IG

HL7
IPS FHIR IG

refer

refer

refer

refer

IHE sIPS Profile

IHE IPS Profile





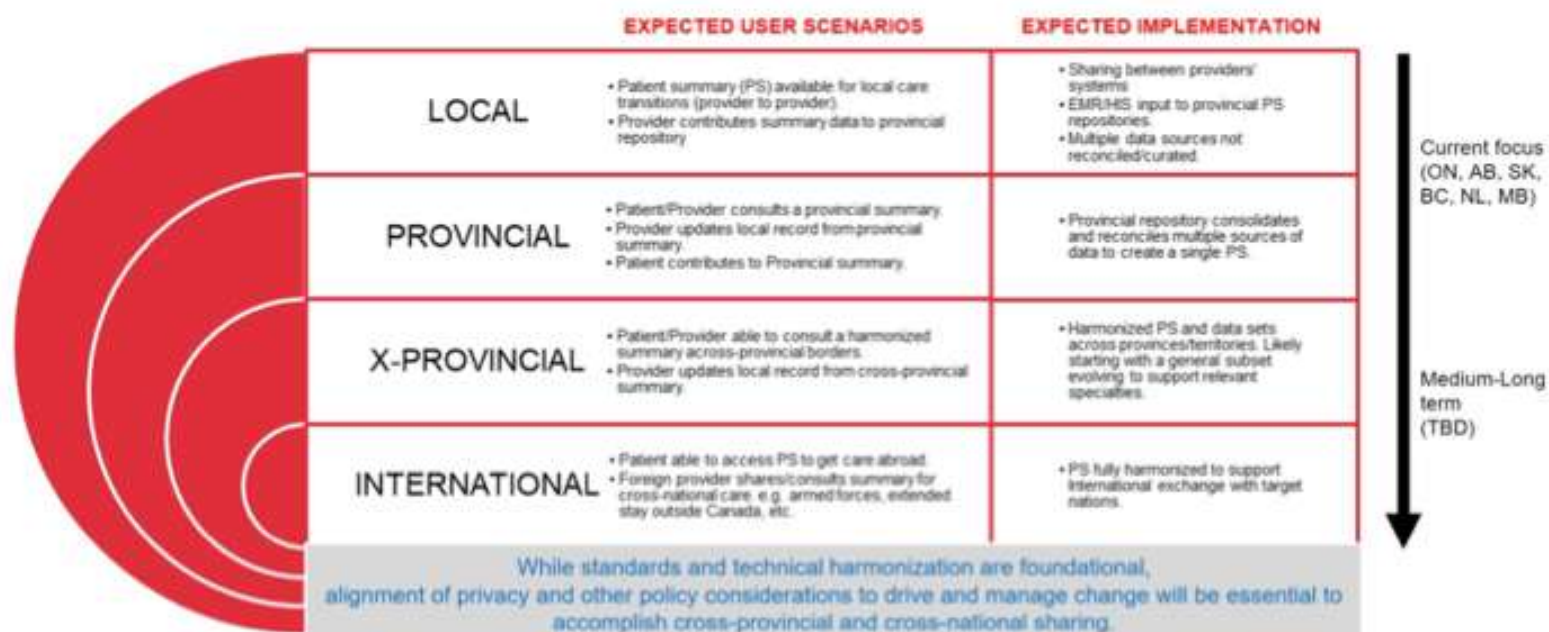
The challenge of localisation

- G7 Countries have chosen to adopt the IPS
 - Canada is actively testing the PS-CA
- Europe still has its “own” EU specifications
 - HL7 Europe is developing a [European Patient Summary](#) specification
- G20 Countries have chosen to adopt the IPS
 - Australia is focusing on AU PS
 - Brazil is rolling out the IPS nationally
- GDHP has an active IPS project
 - New Zealand is rolling out the NZ PS for every kiwi
- WHO is piloting the IPS for the Hajj, using GDHCN
 - Saudi Arabia is receiving IPS from Malaysian and Indonesian pilgrims



Canada aims to cover variances

PS-CA is configurable to address necessary jurisdictional variances





Non-breaking localisation

- Is a local version of the PS still compliant and usable as an IPS?
 - Should it be?
- Having different versions being maintained independently is a version management nightmare
- Having to support different versions as a global vendor is further complicating the already complicated multi-country software development life cycle



The Use of the Patient Summary

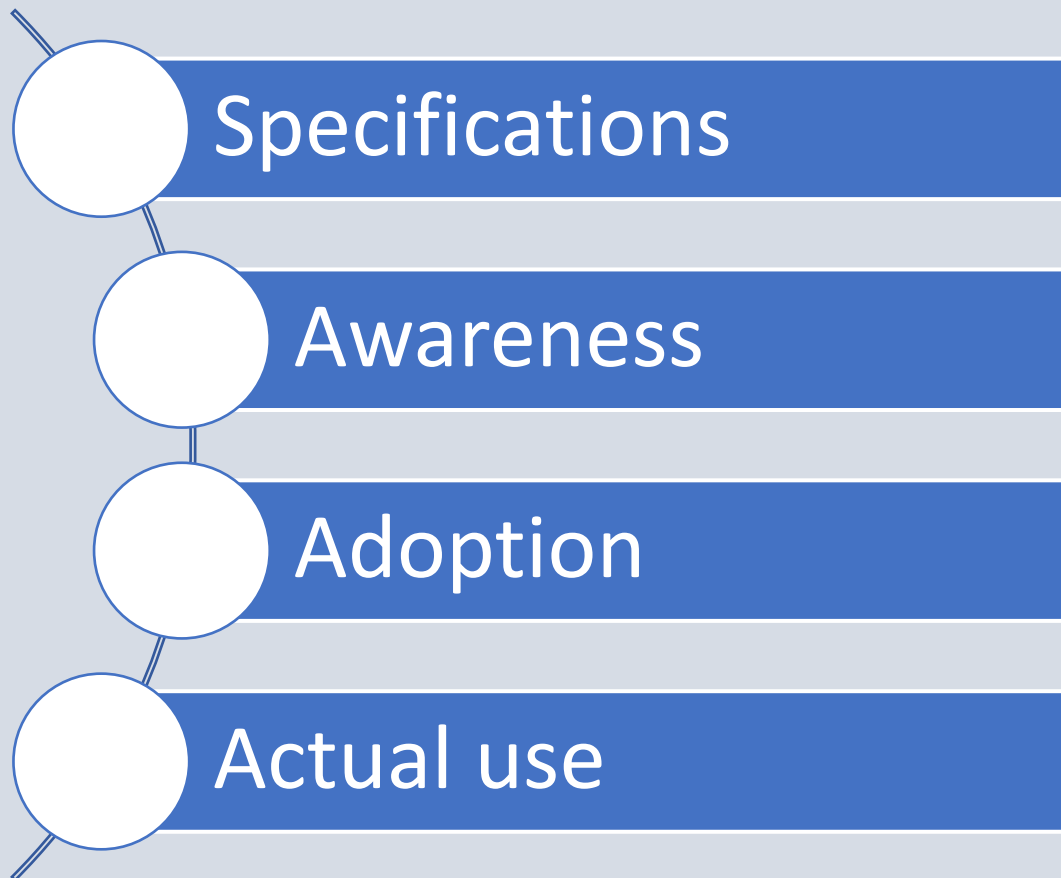


Different roads to using the IPS

- Maybe each jurisdiction needs to go through the IPS specifications and create its own implementation guides
- Maybe that's what is needed to actually start using the Patient Summary
- But maybe, the “experts” advising the governments are so used to creating implementation guides, that they just don't know any other way to start the implementation process
- Or the governments need to control the specifications that they want to reference in their legislation, mandating the use of the Patient Summary



How are YOU using the Patient Summary?





Thank You


robert@trace-health.nl



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-patient-summary>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the International Patient Summary (IPS) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: USERS, TOPICS, RESOURCES, COLLABORATION, and CONTACT. Below this is the IPS logo and the text "The International Patient Summary" and "key health data, worldwide". A search icon and a menu icon are also present. The main content area features a large banner with the title "Implementations across the Globe" and a description: "The International Patient Summary is a truly international asset to support the safe and efficient provision of care across the globe. Read about the initiatives and experiences across a wide variety of countries." Below the banner, there is a paragraph about the IPS: "The International Patient Summary is a minimal and non-exhaustive set of basic clinical data of a patient, specialty-agnostic, condition-independent, but readily usable by all clinicians for the unscheduled (cross-border) patient care." This is followed by a section titled "About Patient Summaries" which explains that a Patient Summary is a standardized set of basic clinical data that includes the most important health and care related facts required to ensure safe and secure healthcare. It also mentions that this summarized version of the patient's clinical data gives health professionals the essential information they need to provide care in the case of an unexpected or unscheduled medical situation (e.g. emergency or accident). While this data is mainly intended to aid health professionals in providing unscheduled care, it can also be used to provide planned medical care, e.g. in the case of citizen movements or cross-organizational care paths, or even as a crystallization point for health records. To the right of this text is a diagram showing the components of the IPS: Medication, Allergies / Intolerances, Problems, Immunizations, Results, and Procedures. Below this is a section titled "IPS News" which contains two news items: "IHE Announces an IPS Theme for the 2025 North America Connectathon" and "HL7 CDA® R2 Implementation Guide: International Patient Summary reconciles comments".

USERS ▾ TOPICS ▾ RESOURCES ▾ COLLABORATION ▾ CONTACT

 The International Patient Summary
key health data, worldwide

Implementations across the Globe

The International Patient Summary is a truly international asset to support the safe and efficient provision of care across the globe. Read about the initiatives and experiences across a wide variety of countries.

The International Patient Summary is a minimal and non-exhaustive set of basic clinical data of a patient, specialty-agnostic, condition-independent, but readily usable by all clinicians for the unscheduled (cross-border) patient care.

About Patient Summaries

A Patient Summary is a standardized set of basic clinical data that includes the most important health and care related facts required to ensure safe and secure healthcare.

This summarized version of the patient's clinical data gives health professionals the essential information they need to provide care in the case of an unexpected or unscheduled medical situation (e. g. emergency or accident). While this data is mainly intended to aid health professionals in providing unscheduled care, it can also be used to provide planned medical care, e. g. in the case of citizen movements or cross-organizational care paths, or even as a crystallization point for health records.

Medication
Allergies / Intolerances
Problems
Immunizations
Results
Procedures

The International Patient Summary

IPS News

- [IHE Announces an IPS Theme for the 2025 North America Connectathon](#)
- [HL7 CDA® R2 Implementation Guide: International Patient Summary reconciles comments](#)

International-Patient-Summary.net