Medication History Standards
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The document you are reading is part of The Connecting for Health Common Framework, which is available in full and in its most current version at: http://www.connectingforhealth.org/. The Common Framework will be revised and expanded over time. As of October 2006, the Common Framework included the following published components:

The Common Framework: Overview and Principles

Policy Guides: How Information is Protected

P1 The Architecture for Privacy in a Networked Health Information Environment
P2 Model Privacy Policies and Procedures for Health Information Exchange
P3 Notification and Consent When Using a Record Locator Service
P4 Correctly Matching Patients with Their Records
P5 Authentication of System Users
P6 Patients' Access to Their Own Health Information
P7 Auditing Access to and Use of a Health Information Exchange
P8 Breaches of Confidential Health Information
P9 A Common Framework for Networked Personal Health Information

Future Policy Guides

Technical Guides: How Information is Exchanged

T1 The Common Framework: Technical Issues and Requirements for Implementation
T2 Health Information Exchange: Architecture Implementation Guide
T3 Medication History Standards
T4 Laboratory Results Standards
T5 Background Issues on Data Quality
T6 Record Locator Service: Technical Background from the Massachusetts Prototype Community

Future Technical Guides

Model Contractual Language

M1 Key Topics in a Model Contract for Health Information Exchange
M2 A Model Contract for Health Information Exchange
Medication History Standards*

One of two use cases we tested in the Connecting for Health Common Framework prototype was the exchange of medication history. In order to do so, we adopted a format for representation in the network that had the best fit with broad adoption and potential standardization. The Medication History schema we used was derived from the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) SCRIPT specification, version 8.1, as described by RxHub.2

We generated a schema for use in the prototype using the ZixCorp3 XML implementation. These Medication History schemae, as developed by CSC, can be located at:

https://ehr.consult.csc.com/cfh/.

There is considerable work on medication history standards, and we anticipate that there will be future changes to this standard in the near term. Because the Common Framework maintains a separation between data description and transport, updates to the medication history standard will not require re-engineering the network to accommodate the new standard.

* Connecting for Health thanks the Massachusetts prototype team, John Halamka, MD, Vinod Muralidhar, John Calladine, and Gail Fournier for their implementation efforts on this standard.

1 www.ncpdp.org.
2 www.rxhub.net.
3 www.zixcorp.com/.

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