

Australian Standard™

Health Care Client Identification

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee IT-014, Health Informatics. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 8 May 2002 and published on 3 June 2002.

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The Pharmacy Guild of Australia
The University of Sydney

The following interests participated in the preparation of this Standard:

State and Territory Health Departments
General Practice Computing Group
Private Hospitals Association
Divisions of General Practice in each State/Territory
Institute for Healthy Communities
Privacy Commissioners (Commonwealth/State)
Health Issues Centre

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee IT-014 *Health Informatics*, in response to requests from the health service provider community. After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

This Standard is the result of health industry concern about the myriad of data storage formats used for basic but critical client identification data.

Its objective is to provide the health industry with a specific Standard for Health Care Client Identification for clinical and administrative data management purposes which promotes uniformly good practice in identifying individuals and recording identifying data so as to ensure that each individual's health records will be associated with that individual and no other. The Standard also provides the basis for future linkage of data as authorized by law and appropriate for clinical management of patients and statistical research purposes.

In this initial publication, the scope of the Standard has been limited to Health Care Client Identification in Australia only. In the future, consideration will be given to New Zealand and international requirements, Health Service Provider Identification Standards and Data Matching and Linkage Standards.

NOTE: Data Matching and Linkage are noted as future work items.

This Standard does not supersede any other Standards but rather acts as a consolidation of best practice principles and guidelines for collection and storage of Health Care Client Identification data. Where these exist Standards already in use in health care have been sourced in preference to generally applicable Australian Standards.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An informative appendix is only for information and guidance.

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