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# The Swiss EPR and the European Cross Border eHealth Information System What can we learn?

Stéphane SPAHNI, PhD, University Hospitals of Geneva

In cooperation with



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# A NATIONAL CONTACT POINT FOR CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGE

- Project started in 2008 under the name “epSOS”
- Switzerland joined in 2011 (epSOS II) → implementation by HUG connected to MonDossierMedical.ch EPR
- Objective: reliable exchange of information between countries
  - Including transcoding and translation of documents
  - Without intervening into national infrastructure
  - Through the establishment of a circle of trust between the countries
- Results
  - Specification of the structure and content of the exchanged documents
  - Realization of a National Contact Point reference implementation (OpenNCP)
  - Proof of concept including legal arrangements between countries

# BEYOND THE PROJECT PHASE: CEF AND CBEHIS SERVICES

## Cross-Border eHealth Information System (CBeHIS):

- Building block of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)
- Started in 2017 with 22 countries, including Switzerland represented by Geneva
- Additional countries joined in 2018
- Deployment (go-live) in 3 “waves”: 2018, 2019, 2020
- Integration with other CEF building blocks: CEF PKI, CEF eDelivery, CEF eID

# THE NATIONAL CONTACT POINT FOR EHEALTH (NCPeH)

- Bi-directional Gateway in each country
- Umbrella for
  - Legal aspects → NCPeH organization is the legal umbrella for the country
  - Semantic aspects → NCPeH is in charge of semantic interoperability
  - Organizational aspects → NCPeH is the single point of contact for the whole country
  - Technical aspects → NCPeH “speaks” CEF on one side and “national” on the other side
- Possibly two-ways
  - Acts as “Country A” → connected to the national EPR infrastructure
  - Acts as “Country B” → connected to healthcare providers portals

# WHICH INFORMATION IS EXCHANGED?

- Key constraint: translation and transcoding of documents “on the fly”
  - Fully structured documents!
  - Not any document can be transferred!
- Selection of 2 scenarios (3 documents):
  - Patient Summary = “photography” of the health status / history of a patient
  - ePrescription / eDispensation = possibility to dispense in foreign country from an electronic prescription, including documentation of dispense

# SWISS PLANNING

- Initial plan over the 3 waves
  - 2018: go-live with scenario Patient Summary Country A
  - 2019: go-live with scenario Patient Summary Country B
  - 2020: go-live with scenario ePrescription Country A
- Revised plan over the 2 waves
  - 2019: go-live with scenario Patient Summary Country A and Country B
  - 2020: go-live with scenario ePrescription Country A

# WORK PERFORMED SINCE 2011

- Geneva Canton, HUG & HESGE mandated by eHealth Suisse
- Technical aspects (HUG)
  - Test NCP running since 2013 under epSOS II
  - Move towards CEF-based infrastructure (e.g. use of common communication infrastructure)
  - Strong participation in OpenNCP Community for developing the NCPeH reference solution
- Organizational aspects (HUG, Canton)
  - Set-up of a transition organisation until the NCPeH can be moved under federal responsibility
- Semantic aspects (HESGE)
  - Terminology mapping, Terminology server
- Legal aspects (Canton)
  - Work on cantonal legislation (cantonal EPR law, data protection law, patient consent)

# KEY POINTS TO SOLVE

- Availability of structured and coded data
  - Necessary to create the Patient Summary and to translate/transcode it into common terminologies
- Patient identification
  - How to identify a Swiss patient from abroad? Missing “unique identification mean”!
  - Forthcoming eIDAS Regulations & Infrastructure
- Legal aspects are the most difficult part
  - All EU countries under EU legislation → “bridge” to implement (no EU/CH arbitrary court)
  - GDPR entered in force May 25, 2018 → Swiss Data Protection Law is no more equivalent to EU legislation
  - Informed Patient Consent will be a key element

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# NEXT STEPS FOR AN EXPECTED GO-LIVE IN SPRING 2019

- Finalization of Wave 2 infrastructure
  - Patient Summary out of HUG EPR data
  - Portal for healthcare professionals (HUG and private GPs) with strong authentication
- Technical Audit
  - Use of IHE Gazelle testing tools
  - Validation of Swiss PS content by foreign healthcare professionals
  - Validation of foreign PS content by Swiss healthcare professionals
- Global Audit
  - On-site formal audit by external auditors
- Sign the Cross-Border Legal Agreement by the end of year (Geneva)?

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Thank you for your attention!