



PDF Healthcare Overview

A guide to safe access and transport of health information



What is PDF Healthcare?

- A “Best Practices Guide” describing attributes of the Portable Document Format (PDF) to facilitate the capture, exchange, preservation and protection of healthcare information
 - Share data easily between healthcare institutions
 - Ease the transition into digital health records
 - Bridge the gap between healthcare providers and consumers

PDF Healthcare Objective

■ Objective

- Utilizing PDF features and functionality, the objective is to develop a secure, electronic container that can store and transmit relevant healthcare information, including but not limited to personal documents, clinical notes, lab reports, electronic forms, scanned images, photographs, digital X-rays, and ECGs, important for maintaining and improving one's health.

Background

- eHealthcare is a reality in today's environment
- PDF advantages in healthcare
 - Long-standing success and adoption of PDF
 - PDF provides a secure and universal container for multiple data types regardless of data source or destination
 - PDF is platform- and system-neutral
 - PDF allows for interoperability and bi-directional information exchange
 - Selected records can be easily and quickly printed from PDF when necessary
- PDF usage addressing specific industry needs include:
 - PDF/A (Archiving), PDF/E (Engineering), PDF/UA (Universal Access), PDF/X (Printing)

Identifying the Need

■ Issues

- Improving patient safety while lowering costs
 - Many healthcare errors and unnecessary expenses occur during the exchange of patient-related information between and among physicians / institutions.
- Sending / receiving paper-based health records
 - Handwritten, paper-based records, often illegible, cannot be quickly transmitted and easily searched.
- Need for a universal container to hold various types of health information
- Need for consumer access to personal healthcare data - any time, any where, on any device
 - Consumers want to take a more active role in the management of their healthcare; for example, by being able to amend and update their personal health information.

Identifying the Need (continued)

■ Issues

- Security and liability
- Ease of use
- Current information systems have little or no interoperability capabilities that can serve the needs of the patient/consumer by protecting the patient's privacy and securing the patient's information.
- Paper records can be easily destroyed (e.g., during natural disasters) with no means for recovery / data rebuilding, except for the dependence on a patient's memory.

Why PDF in healthcare?

- PDF is powerful and flexible
- PDF can focus on the specific needs of the healthcare market
- Interoperability and portability
 - PDF is based on open, published specifications
- The PDF Healthcare Best Practices Guide will be developed and maintained by an external committee with healthcare industry knowledge

Initial PDF Healthcare Offering

■ Best Practices Guide

- Describes the attributes of the Portable Document Format (PDF) that are relevant to facilitate the capture, exchange, preservation and protection of healthcare information

■ Implementation Guide / Use Cases

- Supplemental information that will provide examples of interoperability with existing healthcare standards such as ASTM's Continuity of Care Record (CCR), Health Level 7's Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) as well as other, new, emerging standards

Initial PDF Healthcare Offering (continued)

■ Implementation Guide / Use Cases

- The first use case example will be based on the CCR standard and will include the following:
 - patient demographics
 - insurance information
 - problems and diagnoses
 - medication list
 - allergies
 - immunizations
 - actors, such as information about Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) or specialists

The Development Process

- Work is organized by accredited standards development organizations (SDOs):
 - AIIM International & ASTM International
 - Published as joint project between AIIM and ASTM
- Timeframe
 - Version 1 of the Best Practices Guide – early 2007
- Implementation use cases
 - ASTM CCR use case – early 2007
 - HL7 CDA use case – mid 2007
 - HL7/ASTM CCD use case – TBD
 - Others to be determined

Partial List of Participants

- AIIM / ASTM
- Adobe Systems, Inc.
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- CapMed
- Cerner
- Dak Systems Consulting
- eClinicalWorks
- Generator LLC
- Good Health Network
- Intel
- Massachusetts Medical Society
- Med Commons
- MEDecision
- MediKeeper
- Merck
- MinuteClinic
- NextGen
- Northern Illinois Physicians for Connectivity
- Northrop Grumman
- Point and Click Solutions
- Schering-Plough
- SureScripts
- YourTimeMatters.com



Additional Information

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