

# Computer-based Patient Records

## PROPOSAL FOR A NEW IMIA WORKING GROUP

### IMIA WG 17

### Computerised Patient Records - CPRs (also known as "Electronic Patient Records - EPRs")

Proposed Chairman:

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The goals of this WG activity are to improve the accuracy, uniformity and retrievability of patient care data by the healthcare community and to use these data to improve clinical decision making. This requires the development of clinical data standards and the deployment of distributed integrated computing systems throughout healthcare institutions and to healthcare providers. Thorough testing is required as these systems, decision support algorithms, and knowledge servers are brought into hospitals, the offices of doctors and other healthcare providers, and patients' homes. These efforts will bring the benefits of fast communication highways either in Europe (EU) or in the US (with HPCC) and in Asia to healthcare providers and consumers throughout the world.

These efforts will have to incorporate guidelines, decision aids, expert systems and reminder systems in EPRs. The WG will help to support studies in the use of EPRs for patient care, outcome analysis, payment, quality assessment, research, and data transmission among institutions and providers. It is already considered to support:

- A) Private sector development and the testing of standards for: (1) definition and coding of medical terms; (2) the content of specific data sets for decision making; and (3) electronic data exchange.
- B) Evaluation of: (1) how EPR applications are received by healthcare providers and patients; (2) how physician and patient behaviour changes; and (3) how patient outcomes, productivity, and cost of care, are affected.

As a longterm goal, the WG will collaborate with the design of distributed healthcare that will include facility-based integrated patient-based information and data-bases on compact disks. Patient medical images are integrated with EPRs on clinical workstations (or new PC equivalent).

Plans include increased access to other networked resources such as NLM's Medline and other Internet-based libraries. Efforts focus on data capture, order entry of procedures and services (for example, laboratory tests and diet), standards, security and a blend of in-house development, international sharing initiatives and private industry systems. The WG will be coordinating development of clinical software for workstations and networking distributed clinical workstations to extend and expand access to EPRs. Issues include exchanging data and interoperability.

Jean-Raoul Scherrer MD  
Geneva, August 12, 1996

cc: Drs. J. van der Lei, P. Degoulet, J. van Bommel