

Dear Sir,
Dear Madam,

Health IT has a great potential to increase the quality of care by improving the availability of shared and interoperable patient records, by enabling evidence-based disease management and by offering integrated knowledge-based clinical surveillance and decision support. At the same time health IT enables increased efficiency of care and reduction of costs.

Effective use of high quality Electronic Health Record (EHR) applications is a prerequisite to realise added value. The quality of the available EHRs is very variable and sometimes poor, not always offering what they promise.

Functional quality labelling and subsequent certification is the only way to ensure reliability and trustworthiness of systems, and to confirm that at the same time systems behave as nationally or regionally required by the authorities. Quality labelling is not yet common practice in the whole Europe. Establishing consistent quality labelling will enforce and ensure the benefits of the effective use of health IT.

Functional system quality is preparatory and complementary to interoperability and data exchange validation. Systems (and users) need to 'produce' high quality content before being able to 'exchange' that quality.

The EuroRec Institute and its national partner organisations in 24 European countries developed a repository of descriptive functional statements considering European specificity and global standards. EuroRec developed on top of this repository a set of services that will enable you to initiate and to direct a quality labelling and certification process in your country, addressing different domains of application (patient summaries, ePrescription, secondary use of patient data, specialised care...).

EuroRec also defined, using a consistent cross-border approach, minimal quality criteria to be met by each application handling patient and care related data: the EuroRec Seals.

EuroRec and its national partner organisations, joined in the E.U. funded Thematic Network project EHR-QTM (CIP-ICT PSP-238912), offer information and assistance in setting-up a quality labelling process or aligning your national or regional initiative with European efforts.

Investing in quality is urgent and essential to get a return on your efforts to improve quality of care and essential to support the European health IT industry in an increasingly global health IT market.

Services, provided by EuroRec, for functional quality labelling and certification of Health IT system, will be useful to support your quality policy for exchanging and sharing of healthcare data inside and in between institutions in Luxembourg and the Greater Region.

Visit the EuroRec web site (www.eurorec.org) and access the repository of functional statements in English and in your national language in order to see the scope of the work to date.

Yours Sincerely,

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