

Open ehealth Initiative
c/o Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
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Letter of intent regarding Norway joining the Open eHealth Initiative

With reference to the invitation from the Open eHealth Initiative dated 4th June 2007, and to the Berlin eHealth 2007 Conference Declaration, Norway wishes to express interest to join the Open eHealth Initiative in the manner described below.

Regarding the issue of interoperable cross border eHealth services, Norway wants to highlight the main features enabling such services with and within the health sector in Norway:

- A single ID/birth-number for all citizens
- A single Health personnel registry, covering all major personnel groups
- A running, public, secure infrastructure with broadband capabilities connecting the larger part of the health care providers – all hospitals and two thirds of the GPs (and rising) are connected
- One of the largest disseminations of EHR applications in Europe, at more than 90 % in both hospitals and GPs offices
- A unified code of conduct is launched addressing information security and confidentiality issues for all parties connected to the health infrastructure
- Several competence centres specialising in standardisation and terminology (KITH), research and development within telemedicine (NST), research and development in EHR systems (NSEP).

With the above as a basic foundation for eHealth adaptation in Norway, several projects and activities are ongoing to enable more advanced sharing of information, and more means of collaboration between health care providers, patients and citizens, and health care authorities.

- A consent based medication summary is being piloted in three of the larger municipalities, enabling GPs, nursing homes, hospitals and home nurses to share online medication profiles.
- A patient index for patients' contacts with the specialised health care services (hospitals) is planned to start in 2007.
- ePrescription is conducted nationally, with first (pilot) rollout in 2008. The projects covers ordering, central prescription storage, delivery systems at pharmacies, identification and authentication of prescribing doctor, patient and delivering pharmacist, PKI encryption and standardised communication messages and protocols.

- A national patient summary is being investigated. The first step is a legislative work aiming at allowing more means of sharing health information between the health care providers (than just messages, which has been the main carrier till now).


Norwegian participation in European collaboration will be sought at different levels:

- Norway aims at being an active observer and a competent discussion partner for cross border projects in Europe. It is important for us to be able to share as much as possible with the European community, while at the same time learn from others.
- Capacity at national level may be an issue preventing us from being a more active collaborative partner on concrete projects, i.e. as an active member in a consortium towards the European Commission CIP ICT PSP Large Scale Pilots. Our capacity, and the timeliness of possible collaboration projects, will be monitored and considered regularly.
- Also regarding the EC Call for proposals, Norway is aiming at strong participation in the Thematic Networks within eHealth.

For you information, the Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Affairs is the public authority responsible for coordination of eHealth activities nationally, on behalf of the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care services.

Thank you for taking this major initiative to bring forth eHealth services within the European domain.

Yours sincerely,



Tone Bringedal
head of department



Kristian Skauli
senior adviser