



Ulf Jacobsson, SALAR, Sweden

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Closer Cooperation on healthcare in the EU – from threat to possibility

- Healthcare a strict national prerogative
- Previously only a limited co-operation on a general policy level
- Substantial **variations** between national healthcare systems, but also...
- ...substantial **similarities** in political ambitions to reform healthcare as well as in the challenges to reach these goals





2008 marks a new era in legal and policy framework for EU Cooperation on eHealth

- Proposal for a European **Directive** on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare
- Commission **Recommendation** on cross-border interoperability of electronic health record systems
- Upcoming **Communication** on telemedicine for advanced home care and chronic diseases
- eHealth **Standardisation** Mandate 403
- Start of the **epSOS** project





epSOS – a highly political project

- Member State obligation to deliver the best possible medical treatment – at home or when travelling
- Introducing a new dimension in national healthcare systems
- Main political objectives:
 - support **patient mobility** nationally and in the EU
 - ensure that patient **safety** is guaranteed
 - **increase efficiency** and cost-effectiveness in cross-border care





Goals & Challenges

- Goal for the epSOS eHealth Project:
 - *“to develop a practical eHealth framework and ICT infrastructure that will enable secure access to patient health information, particularly with respect to a basic patient summary and ePrescription, between European healthcare systems”*
- Challenges to get there:
 - Legal Interoperability
 - Organisational Interoperability
 - Semantic Interoperability
 - Technical Interoperability





The epSOS Project Team

- The Project Team consists of 27 beneficiaries from 12 member states:
 - 9 National Ministries of Health
 - 16 National/regional Competence Centers Including 100+ Contributors
 - IHE-Europe representing ICT industry team
 - Empirica responsible for administrative management
 - Sweden is responsible for project coordination and Daniel Forslund from the Swedish Ministry of Health is the chairman of the Project Steering Board





Spanish Contribution to the Project

- Spain has been a core partner during the project set up phase (Special thanks to Javier Etreros and Juan Muñoz at the Ministry of Health).
- Based on the advanced existing infrastructure and eHealth applications, Spain will play a major role as an epSOS pilot contributor
- We are grateful that Spain has also accepted to take the Work Package leader role in the projects that will define the ePrescription Services (Andalucía), the Definition of the Patient Summary Services (msc) and the Definition of Scenario Preconditions (Cataluña) as well as the participation of Spain in the Architecture and Security groups (Castilla La Mancha).





The Swedish Participation in the epSOS Project

- General preconditions
 - A health care system governed by national law, but where the actual provision of health care services are governed, and to a major extent financed by taxes, by regional or local authorities
 - An existing national identification system for all inhabitants in Sweden (used as the patient's electronic health care ID in all systems)
 - A national infrastructure for the secure identification of health care professionals (directory and smartcards)
 - A new Patient Data Act to regulate the use and interchange of electronic patient health data
 - A very high penetration of electronic EPR systems. Unfortunately still not interoperable to a great extent due to legal restrictions
 - A common national system for ePrescriptions
 - Experience from a national Patient Summary pilot
 - A national strategy for eHealth in operation





The Swedish Participation in the epSOS Project

- What are we doing right now (on top of participating in the epSOS project)?
 - Rolling out a national infrastructure and services for the secure identification of health care providers and to ensure that patient information is accessed and handled in a secure way
 - Rolling out the first national application on the new platform - the National Patient Summary (NPÖ)
 - Developing the national Information architecture (where Snomed will have an important role)
 - These activities are co financed between the Ministry of Health and the county councils/regions and the municipalities and managed by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR). Gösta Malmer is the director of this programme.
 - The national coordinator of the Swedish participation in epSOS project is Mats Larson





The Swedish epSOS Pilot

- The Swedish epSOS national contact point for electronic access to patient information for patients with health data in Sweden will be hosted by the County Council of Östergötland
 - Based on existing regional patient summary services, the patient summary for all inhabitants of the region will be made accessible for epSOS via the new national patient summary (NPÖ).
 - Based on existing connections to the national summary of dispensed medicine and all ePrescriptions will be made available to epSOS for all inhabitants in Sweden





Broad Cooperation & Trust the key to success

- **Openness** and **transparency** key values for the epSOS Project:
 - all Member States welcome to get insight in the project, provide feedback and input
 - the project is open to additional participating Member States
 - progress reports at EU meetings and conferences
 - Close cooperation with Calliope and STORK projects
 - eHealth Stakeholders' Group involvement pivotal





Reminder - From Strategies to Services

- Provide **concrete cross border services** that ensure safe, secure and efficient medical treatment for citizens when travelling across Europe
- Focus on services close to the patient:
 - European Patient Summary
 - ePrescribing across the EU
- Build on **existing National eHealth Projects** and use experiences and knowledge from all Member States





www.epsos.eu

