

Standards Category: Identifiers Standards

Identifiers Standards provide a universal method to identify entities such as an individual (consumer), a healthcare provider, a healthcare organization, a payer, or others (clearinghouses, vendors, products, etc).

Identifiers (IDs) are the lexical tokens that name entities. The concept is analogous to that of a "name". Identifiers are used extensively in information processing systems. Naming entities/identifiers makes it possible to refer to them, which is essential for any kind of symbolic processing.

A number of national and international standard identifiers have been adopted in healthcare. In the United States, a National Standard Identifier for Individual and Organization Health Care Providers (**National Provider Identifier, NPI**) and a National **Employer Identification Number (EIN)** have been adopted for use in all electronic administrative and financial transactions, i.e., claims, claim payments, eligibility, etc.

Proposed regulations adopting a national standard identifier for Health Plans have been released. No national patient identifier standard exists, although many organizations have implemented internal **Master Patient Index (MPI)** applications. Identifiers for other important aspects of health care are also in place, such as ingredient identifiers for drugs and biologics, identifiers for medical devices and durable medical equipment, record identifiers, test orders/test result identifies and other.

Identifiers Standards are developed by Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) and Standard Setting Entities.

Identifiers Standards			
Standard Setting Entities and Standards Development Organizations		Domains	Website
CMS	US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	National Provider Identifier (NPI), Health Plan Identifier (HPID)	https://www.cms.gov/
FDA	US Food and Drug Administration	Unique Ingredient Identifier (UNII) (drugs, biologics, food, devices)	https://www.fda.gov/
IRS	US Internal Revenue Service	Employer Identification Number (EIN)	https://www.irs.gov/
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	County Identifier, Pharmacy Products Identifier, Health Card Issuer Identifier, Provider Identifier	https://www.iso.org/committee/54960.html

Resources

Orlova A. Health Information Technology Standards and Systems Interoperability Course. *Suarez W. Lecture 9: Identifier Standards.* Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (JHSPH) OpenCourseware. Johns Hopkins University. URL: <http://ocw.jhsph.edu/index.cfm/go/viewCourse/course/InfStandards/coursePage/index/>

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ISO Technical Committee 215 Health Informatics (ISO/TC215)

Established in 1998, **International Organization for Standardization, Technical Committee 215, Health Informatics (ISO/TC215)** has over 70 member countries and liaison organizations representing millions of healthcare stakeholders worldwide. **The ISO/TC215 mission is standardization in the field of health informatics to facilitate the capture, interchange and use of health-related data, information, and knowledge to support and enable all aspects of the health system.**

The **US delegation** at ISO/TC215 is represented by the **Technical Advisory Group (ISO/TC215 USTAG)** – a committee accredited by American National Standards Institute – that develops US national positions on international standards. Since 2011 AHIMA provides Secretariat to ISO/TC215 and serves as Administrator to the USTAG at ISO/TC215.

ISO/TC215 develops international standards for semantic (shared content), technical (shared infrastructure) and functional (shared rules) interoperability. ISO/TC215 product portfolio contains **over 200 standards** including those under development. Identifier standards are part of ISO/TC215 semantic interoperability standards portfolio.

ISO/TC 215 Identifier Standards

(IS – International Standard, TS – Technical Specification, TR – Technical Report)

ISO Number	Title
ISO/IS 18232	Messages and communication -- Format of length limited globally unique string identifiers
ISO/TS 27527	Provider identification
ISO/IS 20302	Health cards -- Numbering system and registration procedure for issuer identifiers
ISO/TS 18530	Automatic identification and data capture marking and labelling -- Subject of care and individual provider identification
ISO/TS 16791	Requirements for international machine-readable coding of medicinal product package identifiers
<i>Under Development</i>	
ISO/TR 14872	Identification of Medicinal Products (IDMP) -- Core principles for maintenance of identifiers and terms
ISO/TS 21860	Reference standards portfolio -- Clinical imaging (RSP-CI)

Resources

ISO/TC215 Standards and Projects Catalog: <http://www.ahima.org/~media/AHIMA/Files/AHIMA-and-Our-Work/ISOTC215StandardsCatalog2017.ashx?la=en>

ISO/TC215 Website at ISO: <https://www.iso.org/committee/54960.html>

ISO/TC215 Website at AHIMA: <http://www.ahima.org/about/global?tabid=ISO>