

eHealth Initiatives in Digital India

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Abstract—The **National eHealth Authority (NeHA)** is being proposed to be set up for facilitating the smooth adoption of eHealth in India. Following the putting up of the Concept Note in the public domain, and, subsequently after revising the Concept Note, based on the comments received from all the stakeholders, a National Consultation on National eHealth Authority (NeHA) was held on 4th April, 2016. Based on the deliberations of the Workshop, now a Cabinet Note is being prepared for further processing.

As per the **Digital India** initiatives, the fifth pillar of eKranti includes Technology for Healthcare or eHealth having online medical consultation, online medical records, online medicine supply, and pan-India exchange for patient information.

For successful and meaningful information of health information, appropriate **Standards** are necessary to maintain interoperability between diverse Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had recommended the Guidelines for EHR Standards in August 2013. Now that is being revised and comments have been received on the proposed new edition. This is likely to be finalized and notified soon.

To provide better and cost effective patient care one needs to exchange healthcare information.

Standard: Ability of two or more systems or components to **exchange** information and to **use** the information that has been exchanged.

The broad categories of Standards for Health Information Exchange (HIE) include:

- Identifiers
- Vocabulary (e.g., ICD, SNOMED-CT)
- Content Exchange (e.g., HL7, DICOM)
- Transport (e.g., XML)
- Privacy, Security and Confidentiality

An Integrated Health IT Platform is also being proposed so that Standards-compliant EHR systems can talk to each other and health information can be exchanged meaningfully.

All the healthcare facilities in India are now being provided a unique and permanent National Identification Number (NIN). This could be a starting point for linking data from various healthcare facilities throughout India.