

# HITCH



Healthcare Interoperability Testing  
and Conformance Harmonisation



# Introduction

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Workshop on eHealth Interoperability Testing  
Pisa, April 12<sup>th</sup> 2011

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Dear Workshop Attendee,

We are happy to welcome you to the Workshop on eHealth interoperability testing taking place next week at the Connectathon in Pisa.

In order to make the workshop productive, this letter provides a few key points and questions that we would like to discuss with you at the workshop. For further information you might also be interested in reading the technical reports published by the HITCH project about these topics at the following address: [www.HITCH-Project.eu](http://www.HITCH-Project.eu).

### Key Points

- ★ Quality management in eHealth interoperability testing is a rather immature field that HITCH surveyed and makes some critical proposals in moving forward.
- ★ A Quality Management System is needed to ensure a robust and mature interoperability testing processes. HITCH produced a comprehensive guideline to interoperability testing processes as part of this Quality Management System.
- ★ Interoperability testing quality management system and processes defined by HITCH are evaluated at this IHE Connectathon.
- ★ Interoperability test tools have been analysed in HITCH and their maturity was found rather inconsistent across the eHealth domain spectrum. Key gaps have been identified.
- ★ Interoperability testing and functional testing are two different but complementary activities. Some relationships between them exist and have been identified by HITCH.
- ★ Testing and labelling are two very different elements. Any approach to labelling/certification without solid interoperability testing tools and processes is not possible.
- ★ Typical labelling/certification schemes were analyzed by HITCH and compared. HITCH to elaborate criteria for making the choice between different schemes.







### Key Questions

- ★ Are there already Quality Management Systems for testing interoperability in companies?
- ★ Is there a need for a common approach for such Quality Management Systems? Why?
- ★ Do we actually need more thorough testing and certification or is the current situation sufficient?
- ★ Testing and certification are expensive, but is the result – better interoperability of eHealth products – worth the effort?
- ★ Is there a need for more testing tools? Who should make those tools available? License them?
- ★ What are the key criteria for selecting the best certification scheme?

On behalf of the Workshop Organisation and HITCH Team,  
Michael Onken

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See you next week in Pisa!

HITCH is partially funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme.

## 4 Key Points

- ▶ **Quality management** in eHealth interoperability testing is a rather **immature** field that HITCH surveyed and makes some critical proposals in moving forward.
- ▶ A **Quality Management System** is needed to ensure a **robust** and **mature** interoperability testing processes. HITCH produced a comprehensive guideline to interoperability testing processes as part of this Quality Management System.
- ▶ Interoperability testing quality management system and processes defined by HITCH are evaluated at this IHE Connectathon.
- ▶ Interoperability test tools have been analysed in HITCH and their maturity was found rather inconsistent across the eHealth domain spectrum. Key gaps have been identified.
- ▶ **Interoperability** testing and **functional** testing are two different but complementary activities. Some relationships between them exist and have been identified by HITCH.
- ▶ **Testing** and **labelling** are two very different elements. Any approach to labelling/certification without solid interoperability testing tools and processes is not possible.
- ▶ Typical labelling/certification schemes were analyzed by HITCH and compared. HITCH to elaborate criteria for making the choice between different schemes.

## 5 Key Questions

- ▶ Are there already Quality Management Systems for testing interoperability in companies ?
- ▶ Is there a need for a common approach for such Quality Management Systems? Why?
- ▶ Do we actually need more thorough testing and certification or is the current situation sufficient?
- ▶ Testing and certification are expensive, but is the result – better interoperability of eHealth products – worth the effort?
- ▶ Is there a need for more testing tools? Who should make those tools available? License them?
- ▶ What are the key criteria for selecting the best certification scheme?

## 6 Agenda

- ▶ The European Commission's vision for eHealth
- ▶ Hitch Introduction
- ▶ Best Practice, Certification and Testing in Denmark
- ▶ Interoperability Testing and Certification in the USA
- ▶ Establishing Quality Management for Testing

**HAVE A NICE WORKSHOP !**