

2nd EEHRxF Expert Summit Flash Report

Introduction

The 2nd EEHRxF Expert Summit convened on 13 November 2024 in Brussels, bringing together stakeholders to advance on the European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format (EEHRxF). Building on the first Expert Summit's achievements, this event focused on reviewing progress achieved so far, enhancing ecosystem collaboration, and exploring strategies for the EEHRxF implementation within the European Health Data Space (EHDS).

Session Summaries

Session 1: The EHDS Regulation and Policy Context (Plenary)

Objective: To discuss the EHDS regulatory framework and its implications for the EEHRxF.

The session provided an overview of the EHDS implementation, emphasising the pivotal role of the EEHRxF as a tool for enabling cross-border health data interoperability. Key discussions highlighted collaboration between the European Commission, Member States, and projects like Xt-EHR in drafting legally binding technical specifications.

Session 2: Building up the Format (Plenary)

Objective: To assess progress and future directions for the EEHRxF development. Speakers presented technical advancements, including new standards for laboratory reports, and explored the industry's challenges in adoption. Discussions emphasised the need for better industry alignment, incentives for early adoption, and support mechanisms for regional and institutional readiness.

Session 3: Perspectives on EEHRxF Implementation (Breakout Groups)

Objective: To address stakeholder-specific challenges and opportunities in EEHRxF adoption.

- **Group 1:** Focused on supporting healthcare providers. Discussions centred on streamlining patient summaries, minimising automation risks, and leveraging real-time data for improved clinical decision-making.
- **Group 2:** Explored industry readiness, highlighting the balance between regional flexibility and standardisation, the potential of the xShare certification label, and the need for incentives for uptake.
- **Group 3:** Examined patient value, emphasising the integration of diverse data sources, patient empowerment through digital literacy, and secondary use of data for research.

Session 4: Breakout Groups Report (Plenary)

Objective: To consolidate the findings from the breakout sessions. Selected Rapporteurs from each group summarised the discussions, linking clinical, industrial, and patient-centric aspects to actionable next steps. Key insights included reducing unnecessary specifications, aligning interoperability standards, and fostering engagement through practical tools like the xShare "Yellow Button."

Session 5: Next Steps for Collaboration and Communication (Plenary)

Objective: To strategise stakeholder engagement and the EEHRxF evolution. Presentations highlighted existing communication campaigns, the maturity model for adoption networks, and the Standards and Policy Hub's role in co-creation. The session stressed the need to address cross-border challenges and integrating multilingual capabilities.

Session 6: Closing

Objective: To outline collaborative next steps.

Key discussions underscored the importance of sustained collaboration, implementing milestones, and expanding the EEHRxF adoption in Europe. Closing remarks reaffirmed the EEHRxF's role in transforming healthcare interoperability within and beyond Europe.

Key Outcomes

1. **Regulatory Progress:** Clarified timelines for implementing acts and the EEHRxF's integration into electronic health record systems developed by industry and by Member States' authorities.

2. **Technical Advancements:** Development of standards for laboratory and discharge reports showcased significant progress.
3. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Emphasised multi-level collaboration among healthcare providers, industry, and patients.
4. **Patient Empowerment:** Highlighted the importance of accessible, understandable data and the role of tools like the Yellow Button.
5. **Global Vision:** Recognised the EEHRxF's potential as a model for international health data interoperability.

The expert summit concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders to align efforts and drive the adoption of the EEHRxF's, fostering innovation and improved healthcare delivery.