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Identifier Standards

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Outline

- Section A: overview
  - Key concepts and definitions
  - Who needs a unique identifier in health care?
  - Where are unique identifiers used?

- Section B: principles, standards, and challenges
  - Principles and characteristics of unique identifiers
  - National standards on unique identifiers
  - Challenges ahead
Overview
Question

- Where do identifier standards fit in the standards world?
HITSP Standards Categorization

1. Information exchange standards
   - E.g., messaging standards

2. Information content standards
   - E.g., reference information models (RIMS)

3. Data standards (vocabularies and terminologies)

4. Identifiers standards
   - E.g., provider, plan, individual

5. Privacy and security standards

6. Functional standards
   - E.g., workflow/dataflow standards

7. Other
   - E.g., IT standards
Many Identifiers

Message-ID: <1995122212433034.gmail@silverton.berkeley.edu>
Unique Identifiers in Health Care—Key Concepts

- **Identity**
  - An individual person or entity, regardless of role

- **Identifier**
  - A character string or pattern used in information systems to identify an entity or individual
  - Generally, an attribute that points unambiguously and uniquely to an identity
Unique Identifiers in Health Care—Key Concepts

- Identification methods
  - Systematic processes established to achieve identification of an entity or individual using one or more data elements
    - For example, probabilistic matching to link a record to an individual
Unique Identifiers in Health Care—Key Concepts

- Authentication or identity proofing
  - Methods to verify and confirm the claimed identity of an entity or individual

- Authorization
  - What an entity or individual can do (and can’t do) once the identity has been authenticated
Who Needs to Be Identified in Health Care?

- Individuals
  - Patients, providers, others involved in care

- Entities
  - Hospitals
  - Other health care provider organizations—such as health plans, employers
  - Others (i.e., vendors)
Who Needs to Be Identified in Health Care?

- **Systems and processes**
  - Information systems and system components used by entities to collect, maintain, use and disclose data

- **Devices**
  - Medical equipment and devices used in the delivery of care to patients

- **Others**
  - Vendors and other
Where Are Unique Identifiers Used?

- Care delivery
  - Providers delivering care
  - Patients receiving care
  - Products used in care

- Care management and payment
  - Payers verifying who delivered care to a patient

- Quality measurement and patient safety
  - Evaluating quality of care
  - Monitoring safety of products and care delivery
Where Are Unique Identifiers Used?

- Public health
  - Monitor and manage public health event, disease surveillance

- Research
  - Identifying research subjects in clinical and non-clinical research

- Privacy monitoring
  - Who accessed, used, disclosed data about a patient

- Regulatory enforcement
  - In the event of misuse or abuse of health information
Where Are Unique Identifiers Used?

- Internal within single organization
- Internal across a system with multiple components
- Across local/regional HIEs within the NHIN
- Across local/regional HIEs within a local/regional HIE
- Across countries worldwide
- Across organizations within a local/regional HIE