



See the [Profiles & Extensions \(patient-profiles.html\)](#) and the alternate definitions: Master Definition [XML \(patient.profile.xml.html\)](#) + [JSON \(patient.profile.json.html\)](#), [XML \(xml.html\)](#) Schema ([patient.xsd](#))/[Schematron \(patient.sch\)](#) + [JSON \(.json.html\)](#) Schema ([patient.schema.json.html](#)), [ShEx \(patient.shex.html\)](#) (for [Turtle \(rdf.html\)](#)) + [see the extensions \(patient-profiles.html\)](#) & the [dependency analysis \(patient-dependencies.html\)](#).

8.1.2.1 Terminology Bindings

Path	Definition	Type	Reference
Patient.gender Patient.contact.gender	The gender of a person used for administrative purposes.	Required (terminologies.html#required).	AdministrativeGender (valueset-administrative-gender.html) .
Patient.maritalStatus	The domestic partnership status of a person.	Extensible (terminologies.html#extensible).	Marital Status Codes (valueset-marital-status.html) .
Patient.contact.relationship	The nature of the relationship between a patient and a contact person for that patient.	Extensible (terminologies.html#extensible).	PatientContactRelationship (valueset-patient-contactrelationship.html) .
Patient.communication.language	A human language.	Preferred (terminologies.html#preferred) , but limited to AllLanguages (valueset-all-languages.html) .	CommonLanguages (valueset-languages.html) .
Patient.link.type	The type of link between this patient resource and another patient resource.	Required (terminologies.html#required).	LinkType (valueset-link-type.html) .

8.1.2.2 Constraints

id	Level	Location	Description	Expression (fhirpath.html)
pat-1	Rule (conformance-rules.html#rule)	Patient.contact	SHALL at least contain a contact's details or a reference to an organization	<code>name.exists() or telecom.exists() or address.exists() or organization.exists()</code>

Notes:

- multipleBirth can be either expressed as a Boolean (just indicating whether the patient is part of a multiple birth) or as an integer, indicating the actual birth order.
- Patient records may only be in one of two statuses: in use (active=true) and not in use (active=false). A normal record is active, i.e. it is in use. Active is set to 'false' when a record is created as a duplicate or in error. A record does not need to be linked to be inactivated.
- The *link* element is used to assert that two or more Patient resources are both about the same actual patient. See below for further discussion
- There should be only one preferred language (Language.preference = true) per mode of expression.
- The Contact for a Patient has an element *organization*, this is for use with guardians or business related contacts where just the organization is relevant.

8.1.3 Patient ids and Patient resource ids

A Patient record's [Resource Id \(resource.html#id\)](#) can never change. For this reason, the identifiers with which humans are concerned (often called MRN - Medical Record Number, or UR - Unit Record) should not be used for the resource's id, since MRN's may change, i.e. as a result of having duplicate records of the same patient. Instead they should be represented in the *Patient.identifier* list where they can be managed. This is also useful for the case of institutions that have acquired multiple numbers because of mergers of patient record systems over time.

Where there is a need to implement an automated MRN Identifier created for a patient record, this could be achieved by providing an identifier in the patient with an appropriate assigner, MRN Type and/or system but with *no value* assigned. Internal business rules can then detect this and replace/populate this identifier with 1 or more identifiers (as required).

8.1.4 Linking Patients

The *link* element is used to assert that patient resources refer to the same patient. This element is used to support the following scenarios where multiple patient records exist:

8.1.4.1 Duplicate Patient records

Managing Patient registration is a well-known difficult problem. Around 2% of registrations are in error, mostly duplicate records. Sometimes the duplicate record is caught fairly quickly and retired before much data is accumulated. In other cases, substantial amounts of data may accumulate. By using a link of type 'replaced-by', the record containing such a link is marked as a duplicate and the link points forward to a record that should be used instead. Note that the record pointed to may in its turn have been identified as created in error and forward to yet another Patient resource. Records that replace another record *may* use a link type of 'replaces' pointing to the old record.