

**Idioma: Inglés**

### TÍTULO

**Informática sanitaria. Gestión de la seguridad de la información en sanidad utilizando la Norma ISO/IEC 27002 (ISO 27799:2016) (Ratificada por AENOR en octubre de 2016.)**

### TÍTULO INGLÉS

**Health informatics - Information security management in health using ISO/IEC 27002 (ISO 27799:2016) (Endorsed by AENOR in October of 2016.)**

### TÍTULO FRANCÉS

**Informatique de santé - Management de la sécurité de l'information relative à la santé en utilisant l'ISO/IEC 27002 (ISO 27799:2016) (Entérinée par l'AENOR en octobre 2016.)**

### OBSERVACIONES

En cumplimiento del punto 11.2.6.4 de las Reglas Internas de CEN/CENELEC Parte 2, se ha otorgado el rango de documento normativo español UNE al documento normativo europeo EN ISO 27799:2016 (Fecha de disponibilidad 2016-08-10)

Este documento está disponible en los idiomas oficiales de CEN/CENELEC/ETSI.

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English Version

Health informatics - Information security management in  
health using ISO/IEC 27002 (ISO 27799:2016)

Informatique de santé - Management de la sécurité de  
l'information relative à la santé en utilisant l'ISO/IEC  
27002 (ISO 27799:2016)

Medizinische Informatik - Informationsmanagement  
im Gesundheitswesen bei Verwendung der ISO/IEC  
27002 (ISO 27799:2016)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 18 June 2016.

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## European foreword

This document (EN ISO 27799:2016) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 215 “Health informatics” in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 251 “Health informatics” the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by February 2017, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by February 2017.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN ISO 27799:2008.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

### Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 27799:2016 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 27799:2016 without any modification.

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 27799:2008), which has been technically revised.

This International Standard provides guidance to healthcare organizations and other custodians of personal health information on how best to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of such information. It is based upon and extends the general guidance provided by ISO/IEC 27002:2013 and addresses the special information security management needs of the health sector and its unique operating environments. While the protection and security of personal information is important to all individuals, corporations, institutions and governments, there are special requirements in the health sector that need to be met to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, auditability and availability of personal health information. This type of information is regarded by many as being among the most confidential of all types of personal information. Protecting this confidentiality is essential if the privacy of subjects of care is to be maintained. The integrity of health information is to be protected to ensure patient safety, and an important component of that protection is ensuring that the information's entire life cycle be fully auditable. The availability of health information is also critical to effective healthcare delivery. Health informatics systems is to meet unique demands to remain operational in the face of natural disasters, system failures and denial-of-service attacks. Protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of health information therefore requires health sector specific expertise.

Regardless of size, location and model of service delivery, all healthcare organizations need to have stringent controls in place to protect the health information entrusted to them. Yet many health professionals work as solo health providers or in small clinics that lack the dedicated IT resources to manage information security. Healthcare organizations therefore need clear, concise, and health-care-specific guidance on the selection and implementation of such controls. This International Standard is to be adaptable to the wide range of sizes, locations, and models of service delivery found in healthcare. Finally, with increasing electronic exchange of personal health information between health professionals (including use of wireless and Internet services), there is a clear benefit in adopting a common reference for information security management in healthcare.

ISO/IEC 27002 is already being used extensively for health informatics IT security management through the agency of national or regional guidelines in Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom and elsewhere. ISO 27799 draws upon the experience gained in these national endeavours in dealing with the security of personal health information and is intended as a companion document to ISO/IEC 27002. It is not intended to supplant the ISO/IEC 27000-series of standards. Rather, it is a complement to these more generic standards.

ISO 27799 applies ISO/IEC 27002 to the healthcare domain in a way that carefully considers the appropriate application of security controls for the purposes of protecting personal health information. These considerations have, in some cases, led the authors to conclude that application of certain ISO/IEC 27002 control objectives is essential if personal health information is to be adequately protected. ISO 27799 therefore places constraints upon the application of certain security controls specified in ISO/IEC 27002.

All of the security control objectives described in ISO/IEC 27002 are relevant to health informatics, but some controls require additional explanation in regard to how they can best be used to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of health information. There are also additional health sector specific requirements. This International Standard provides additional guidance in a format that persons responsible for health information security can readily understand and adopt.

In the health domain, it is possible for an organization (a hospital, say) to be certified using ISO/IEC 27001 without requiring certification against or even acknowledgement of ISO 27799. It is to be hoped, however, that as healthcare organizations strive to improve the security of personal health information, conformance with ISO 27799 as a stricter standard for healthcare will also become widespread.

Maintaining information confidentiality, availability, and integrity (including authenticity, accountability and auditability) are the overarching goals of information security. In healthcare, privacy of subjects of care depends upon maintaining the confidentiality of personal health information. To maintain

The controls discussed in this International Standard are those identified as appropriate in healthcare to protect confidentiality, integrity and availability of personal health information and to ensure that access to such information can be audited and accounted for. These controls help to prevent errors in medical practice that might ensue from failure to maintain the integrity of health information. In addition, they help to ensure that the continuity of medical services is maintained.

- a) honouring legislative obligations as expressed in applicable data protection laws and regulations protecting a subject of care is right to privacy;<sup>1)</sup>
- b) maintaining established privacy and security best practices in health informatics;
- c) maintaining individual and organizational accountability among health organizations and health professionals;
- d) supporting the implementation of systematic risk management within health organizations;
- e) meeting the security needs identified in common healthcare situations;
- f) reducing operating costs by facilitating the increased use of technology in a safe, secure, and well managed manner that supports, but does not constrain current health activities;
- g) maintaining public trust in health organizations and the information systems these organizations rely upon;
- h) maintaining professional standards and ethics as established by health-related professional organizations (insofar as information security maintains the confidentiality and integrity of health information);
- i) operating electronic health information systems in an environment appropriately secured against threats;
- j) facilitating interoperability among health systems, since health information increasingly flows among organizations and across jurisdictional boundaries (especially as such interoperability enhances the proper handling of health information to ensure its continued confidentiality, integrity and availability).

While health organizations may differ in their positions on clinical governance and corporate governance, the importance of integrating and attending to information governance ought to be beyond debate as a vital support to both. As health organizations have become ever more critically dependent on information systems to support care delivery (e.g. by exploiting decision support technologies and trends towards “evidence based” rather than “experience based” healthcare), it has become evident that

2) Note that in some countries, information governance is referred to as information assurance.

events in which losses of integrity, availability and confidentiality occur may have a significant clinical impact and that problems arising from such impacts will be seen to represent failures in the ethical and legal obligations inherent in a “duty of care”.

All countries and jurisdictions will undoubtedly have case studies where such breaches have led to misdiagnoses, deaths, or protracted recoveries. Clinical governance frameworks need therefore to treat effective information security risk management as equal in importance to care treatment plans, infection management strategies and other “core” clinical management matters. This International Standard will assist those responsible for clinical governance in understanding the contribution made by effective information security strategies.

### Health information to be protected

There are several types of information whose confidentiality, integrity and availability<sup>3)</sup> needs to be protected by

- a) personal health information,
- b) pseudonymized data derived from personal health information through some methodology for pseudonymous identification,
- c) statistical and research data, including anonymized data derived from personal health information by removal of personally identifying data,
- d) clinical/medical knowledge not related to any specific subjects of care, including clinical decision support data (e.g. data on adverse drug reactions),
- e) data on health professionals, staff and volunteers,
- f) information related to public health surveillance,
- g) audit trail data, produced by health information systems, that contain personal health information or pseudonymous data derived from personal health information, or that contain data about the actions of users in regard to personal health information, and
- h) system security data for health information systems, including access control data and other security related system configuration data, for health information systems.

The extent to which confidentiality, integrity and availability need to be protected depends upon the nature of the information, the uses to which it is put, and the risks to which it is exposed. For example, statistical data [item c) above] may not be confidential, but protecting its integrity may be very important. Likewise, audit trail data [item g) above] might not require high availability (frequent archiving with a retrieval time measured in hours rather than seconds might suffice in a given application) but its content might be highly confidential. Risk assessment can properly determine the level of effort needed to protect confidentiality, integrity and availability (see [B.4.4](#)). The results of regular risk assessment need to be fitted to the priorities and resources of the implementing organization.

### Threats and vulnerabilities in health information security

Types of information security threats and vulnerabilities vary widely, as do their descriptions. While none are truly unique to healthcare, what is unique in healthcare is the array of factors to be considered when assessing threats and vulnerabilities.

By their nature, health organizations operate in an environment where visitors and the public at large can never be totally excluded. In large health organizations, the sheer volume of people moving through operational areas is significant. These factors increase the vulnerability of systems to physical threats. The likelihood that such threats will occur may increase when emotional or mentally ill subjects of care or relatives are present.

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3) Level of availability depends upon the uses to which the data will be put.

Many health organizations are chronically under-funded and their staff members are sometimes obliged to work under significant stress and with systems kept in service long after they ought to have been retired. These factors can increase the potential for certain types of threat and can exacerbate vulnerabilities. On the other hand, clinical care involves a range of professional, technical, administrative, ancillary and voluntary staff, many of whom see their work as a vocation. Their dedication and diversity of experience can often usefully reduce exposure to vulnerabilities. The high level of professional training received by many health professionals also sets healthcare apart from many other industrial sectors in reducing the incidence of insider threats.

### Who should read this International Standard?

This International Standards authors do not intend to write a primer on computer security, nor to restate what has already been written in ISO/IEC 27002 or in ISO/IEC 27001. There are many security requirements that are common to all computer-related systems, whether used in financial services, manufacturing, industrial control, or indeed in any other organized endeavour. A concerted effort has been made to focus on security requirements necessitated by the unique challenges of delivering electronic health information that supports the provision of care.

ISO/IEC 27002 is a broad and complex International Standard and its advice is not tailored specifically to healthcare. ISO 27799 allows for the implementation of ISO/IEC 27002 within health environments in a consistent fashion and with particular attention to the unique challenges that the health sector poses. By following it, healthcare organizations help to ensure that the confidentiality and integrity of data in their care is maintained, that critical health information systems remain available and that accountability for health information is upheld.

As a result of implementing this International Standard, healthcare organizations can expect to see the number and severity of their security incidents reduced, allowing resources to be redeployed to productive activities. IT security will thereby allow health resources to be deployed in a cost effective and productive manner. Indeed, research by the respected Information Security Forum and by market analysts has shown that good all-round security can have as much as a 2 % positive effect upon organizations' results.

## How to use this International Standard



Readers seeking guidance on how to implement ISO/IEC 27002 in a health environment will find a practical action plan described in [Annex B](#). No mandatory requirements are contained in this clause. Instead, general advice and guidance are given on how best to proceed with implementation of ISO/IEC 27002 in healthcare. The clause is organized around a cycle of activities (plan/do/check/act) that are described in ISO/IEC 27001 and that, when followed, will lead to a robust implementation of an information security management system.

Once ISO/IEC 27002 has been put into place, the ongoing management is considered essential if the benefits of the International Standard are to be maintained. Clause 18 discusses compliance assessment and the requirements for ongoing information security management. [Annex C](#) contains a self-assessment matrix with regard to compliance.

[Annex A](#) describes the general threats to health information. [Annex B](#) briefly describes a practical action plan for implementing complementary information security related International Standards. [Annex C](#) provides a checklist for compliance to ISO 27799. [Clause 2](#) lists the standards that are cited in a normative way; the Bibliography lists other related standards in health information security.

# Health informatics — Information security management in health using ISO/IEC 27002

## 1 Scope

This International Standard gives guidelines for organizational information security standards and information security management practices including the selection, implementation and management of controls taking into consideration the organization's information security risk environment(s).

This International Standard defines guidelines to support the interpretation and implementation in health informatics of ISO/IEC 27002 and is a companion to that International Standard.<sup>4)</sup>

This International Standard provides implementation guidance for the controls described in ISO/IEC 27002 and supplements them where necessary, so that they can be effectively used for managing health information security. By implementing this International Standard, healthcare organizations and other custodians of health information will be able to ensure a minimum requisite level of security that is appropriate to their organization's circumstances and that will maintain the confidentiality, integrity and availability of personal health information in their care.

This International Standard applies to health information in all its aspects, whatever form the information takes (words and numbers, sound recordings, drawings, video, and medical images), whatever means are used to store it (printing or writing on paper or storage electronically), and whatever means are used to transmit it (by hand, through fax, over computer networks, or by post), as the information is always be appropriately protected.

This International Standard and ISO/IEC 27002 taken together define what is required in terms of information security in healthcare, they do not define how these requirements are to be met. That is to say, to the fullest extent possible, this International Standard is technology-neutral. Neutrality with respect to implementing technologies is an important feature. Security technology is still undergoing rapid development and the pace of that change is now measured in months rather than years. By contrast, while subject to periodic review, International Standards are expected on the whole to remain valid for years. Just as importantly, technological neutrality leaves vendors and service providers free to suggest new or developing technologies that meet the necessary requirements that this International Standard describes.

As noted in the introduction, familiarity with ISO/IEC 27002 is indispensable to an understanding of this International Standard.

The following areas of information security are outside the scope of this International Standard:

- a) methodologies and statistical tests for effective anonymization of personal health information;
- b) methodologies for pseudonymization of personal health information (see Bibliography for a brief description of a Technical Specification that deals specifically with this topic);
- c) network quality of service and methods for measuring availability of networks used for health informatics;
- d) data quality (as distinct from data integrity).

4) This International Standard is consistent with the revised version of ISO/IEC 27002.

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 27002, Information technology — Security techniques — Code of practice for information security controls

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 27000 and the following apply.

scientific discipline that is concerned with the cognitive, information processing and communication tasks of healthcare practice, education and research, including the information science and technology to support these tasks

### 3.2 health information system

repository of information regarding the health of a subject of care in computer-processable form, stored and transmitted securely, and accessible by multiple authorised users

### 3.3 healthcare

type of services provided by professionals or paraprofessionals with an impact on health status

### 3.4 healthcare organization

organization that provides healthcare services

**3.5**  
**health professional**  
person who is authorised by a recognised body to be qualified to perform certain health duties

### 3.6 identifiable person

one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identification number or one or more factors specific to his physical, physiological, mental, economic, cultural or social identity

**3.7**  
**patient**  
*subject of care* (3.9) consisting of one person





## 5.1 Management direction for information security

## 5.1 Management direction for information security

Objective: To provide management direction and support for information security in accordance with business requirements and relevant laws and regulations.

### 5.1.1 Policies for information security

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 5.1.1, applies.

### Health-specific control

Organizations processing health information, including personal health information, shall have a written information security policy that is approved by management, published, and then communicated to all employees and relevant external parties.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 5.1.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to following the guidance, given by ISO/IEC 27002 on what an information security policy should contain, this policy should contain statements on:

- a) the need for health information security;
- b) the goals of health information security;
- c) compliance scope, as described in [Clause 18](#);
- d) legislative, regulatory, and contractual requirements, including those for the protection of personal health information and the legal and ethical responsibilities of health professionals to protect this information;
- e) arrangements for notification of information security incidents, including a channel for raising concerns regarding confidentiality, without fear of blame or recrimination;
- f) the identification of processes and systems that are vital in health care (i.e. failure may lead to adverse patient effects).

Ideally, revision of the policy's contents will be driven by the findings of the organization's risk assessment, although the policy itself need only set direction, state principles and point to other International Standards, where the (more frequently changing) specifics are to be found.

In creating their information security policy document, health organizations will need to specifically consider the following factors, which are unique to the health sector:

- a) the breadth of health information;
- b) the rights and ethical responsibilities of staff, as agreed in law, and as accepted by members of professional bodies;
- c) the rights of subjects of care, where applicable, to privacy and to access to their records;
- d) the obligations of clinicians with respect to obtaining informational consent from subjects of care and maintaining the confidentiality of personal health information;

- Many health organizations have found it advantageous to make the policy document available to staff electronically via an information security area on the health organization's Intranet.

### Other information

### 5.1.2 Review of the policies for information security

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 5.1.2, applies.

The health organization's information security policy should be subject to ongoing, staged review, such that the totality of the policy is addressed at least annually. The policy should be reviewed after the occurrence of a serious security incident.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 5.1.2, applies.

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, such review should address:

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- ## 6 Organization of information security

Objective: To establish a management framework to initiate and control the implementation and operation of information security within the organization.

Control

### Health-specific control

- a) clearly define and assign information security responsibilities;
- b) have an information security management forum (ISMF) in place to ensure that there is clear direction and visible management support for security initiatives involving the security of health information, as described in [B.3](#) and [B.4](#).

At a minimum, at least one individual shall be responsible for health information security within the organization.

The health information security forum shall meet regularly, on a monthly or near-to-monthly basis. (Typically, it is most effective to meet at the mid-point between the meetings of the governance body into which the forum reports. This allows emergency matters to be taken to a suitable meeting within a short period.)

A formal scope statement shall be produced that defines the boundary of compliance activity in terms of people, processes, places, platforms and applications.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, it is important to note the essential nature of management responsibility in organizations that are custodians of personal health information, as described in [B.2](#). Accountability and coordination can only be maintained over the long term, if the organization has an explicit information security management infrastructure.

As noted in [B.4.3](#), the organization's (virtual or actual) information security officer should, among other duties, report to the forum and provide it with secretariat services. The officer should be responsible for collating, publishing and commenting on the reports received by forum members.

### Other information

### 6.1.2 Segregation of duties

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.2, applies.

In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information should, where feasible, segregate duties and areas of responsibility in order to reduce opportunities for unauthorized modification or misuse of personal health information.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.2, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.2, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.3, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.3, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.3, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.4, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.4, applies.

**ISO 27799:2016(E)**

### Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.4, applies.

### 6.1.5 Information security in project management

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.5, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1.5, applies.

### Health-specific control

Healthcare project management should consider patient safety as a project risk in any project involving the processing of personal health information.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

Patient safety is a critical component of any project risk assessment in a project involving the processing of personal health information. Risks to patient safety need to be carefully analysed and explicitly addressed.

Other health-specific information.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.1, applies.

## 6.2 Mobile devices and teleworking

Objective: To ensure the security of teleworking and use of mobile devices.

### 6.2.1 Mobile device policy

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.2.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.2.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information should:

- a) specifically assess the risks involved when using mobile devices in healthcare;
- b) prepare a policy on the precautions to be taken when using mobile computing devices, including guidance and restrictions on the use of personal devices within the organisation, together with controls to meet jurisdictional privacy requirements;
- c) require their mobile users to adhere to this policy.

As noted in ISO/IEC 27002, mobile network wireless connections, while similar to those of wired networks, have some important differences from an information security point of view. Some wireless encryption protocols, such as wired equivalent privacy (WEP) are still in use despite known weaknesses

## Other information

### 6.2.2 Teleworking

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.2.2, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 6.2.2, applies.

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information should:

- Some national jurisdictions (e.g. in Germany) have already placed restrictions on teleworking by health professionals.

## Other information

## 7 Human resource security

### 7.1 Prior to employment

### 7.1.1 Screening

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 7.1.1, applies.

All organizations whose staff, contractors, or volunteers process (or are expected to process) personal health information should, as a minimum, verify the identity, current address and previous employment of such staff, contractors and volunteers at the time of job application.



When an individual is hired for a specific information security role, organizations should make sure the candidate:

- ## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

### 7.1.2 Terms and conditions of employment

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 7.1.2, applies.

In addition to the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, all organizations whose staff members are involved in processing personal health information should document such involvement in relevant job descriptions. Security roles and responsibilities, as laid down in the organization's information security policy, should also be documented in relevant job descriptions.

## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

It is important to know how and where to contact health professional staff, although, as some medical staff move on a regular basis, address details may have a limited value. Health organizations should therefore give consideration to the collection of a reasonable number of references and to undertaking other forms of check, by professional bodies and academic institutions.

### Other information

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**ISO 27799:2016(E)**

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 7.2.3, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, health organizations' disciplinary processes with respect to breaches of information security should follow procedures that are reflected in policy and thus known to the subject(s) of the disciplinary process. In addition to complying with applicable laws, such processes should comply with the agreements reached between health professionals and health professional bodies.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 7.2.3, applies.

### 7.3 Termination and change of employment

Objective: To protect the organization's interests as part of the process of changing or terminating employment.

### 7.3.1 Termination or change of employment responsibilities

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 7.3.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 7.3.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

It is important to note that in healthcare, many types of staff, doctors and nurses, commonly progress through training programmes and other “rotations” where their access rights can change fundamentally. To ensure the termination of previous rights that are no longer required for their role, such changes of employment should be initially processed in the same way as for individuals who are leaving the organization’s employ.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 7.3.1, applies.

## 8 Asset management

## 8.1 Responsibility for assets

Objective: To identify organizational assets and define appropriate protection responsibilities.

### 8.1.1 Inventory of assets

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.1.1, applies.

### Health-specific control

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information should:

- a) account for health information assets (i.e. maintain an inventory of such assets);
- b) have a designated custodian of these health information assets (see [8.1.2](#));

## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

Medical devices that record or report data may require special security considerations in relation to the environment in which they operate and to the electromagnetic emissions that occur during their operation. Such devices should be uniquely identified.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 7.3.1, applies.

Control

Assets maintained in the inventory should be owned.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.1.2, applies.

It is important to note that while many information assets can be owned by in the conventional sense used in ISO/IEC 27002, the notion of ownership of personal health information is fraught with legal, ethical and policy-based issues. In many jurisdictions, individuals may have rights with respect to their own personal health information that limit or transcend any straightforward notion of “ownership” of this information by a healthcare organization or a health professional. Rather, healthcare organizations and health professionals are often viewed in relation to personal health information as custodians or trustees.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.1.2, applies.

Control

## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

#### 8.1.4 Return of assets

Control

### Health-specific control

## Implementation guidance

## 8.2 Information classification

### 8.2.1 Classification of information

Control

### Health-specific control

## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

- a) The confidentiality of personal health information is often largely subjective, rather than objective. In other words, ultimately, only the data subject (i.e. the subject of care) can make a proper determination of the relative confidentiality of various fields or groupings of data. For example, a person escaping from an abusive relationship may consider his or her new address and phone number to be much more confidential than clinical data about setting his or her broken arm.
- b) The confidentiality of personal health information is context-dependent. For example, the name and address of a subject of care in a list of admissions to a hospital's emergency department may not be considered especially confidential by that individual, yet the same name and address in a list of admissions to a clinic treating sexual impotence may be considered highly confidential by the individual.
- c) The confidentiality of personal health information can shift over the lifetime of an individual's health record. For example, changing societal attitudes over the last 20 years have resulted in many subjects of care no longer considering their sexual orientation to be confidential. Conversely, attitudes toward drug and alcohol dependency have caused some subjects of care to consider addiction counselling data to be, if anything, even more confidential today than such data would have been considered 20 years ago.

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Identifying and (where appropriate) protectively labelling information assets as confidential can be an important tool in staff training and in policy compliance. This works best when the classification acts as an indicator of required information handling practices. The classification may also be an important component of data protection agreements among jurisdictions and with third-party organizations and their staff. The identification and labelling of information assets is also an essential component of ISO/IEC 27002.

### Other information

### 8.2.2 Labelling of information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.2.2, applies.

All health information systems processing personal health information should inform users of the confidentiality of personal health information accessible from the system (e.g. at start-up or log-in) and should label hardcopy output as confidential when it contains personal health information.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.2.2, applies.

Not all health information is confidential and not all health information systems provide users with access to personal health information. Users of health information systems need to know when the data they are accessing contains personal health information.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.2.2, applies.

Control

**ISO 27799:2016(E)**

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.2.3, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.2.3, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

### 8.3 Media handling

Objective: To prevent unauthorized disclosure, modification, removal or destruction of information stored on media.

### 8.3.1 Management of removable media

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.3.1, applies.

### Health-specific control

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, media containing personal health information shall be either physically protected or else have their data encrypted. The status and location of media containing unencrypted personal health information shall be monitored.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.3.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information should ensure that all personal health information stored on removable media is

- encrypted while its media are in transit, or
- protected from theft while its media are in transit.

### 8.3.2 Disposal of media

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.3.2, applies.

### Health-specific control

In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, all personal health information shall be securely erased or else the media destroyed when no longer required for use.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.3.2, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

Improper disposal of media continues to be a source of serious breaches of patient confidentiality. It is especially important to note that this control should be applied prior to the repair or disposal of any associated equipment. This requirement also applies to medical devices that record or report data.

### Other information

### 8.3.3 Physical media transfer

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.3.3, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.3.3, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 8.3.3, applies.

## 9.1 Business requirements of access control

Objective: To limit access to information and information processing facilities.

Control

### Health-specific control

c) when there is a need for specific data to support this activity.

The organization should identify and document all parties with whom patient data is exchanged and contractual agreements should be made with these parties regulating access and privileges, prior to exchange of patient data.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.1.1, applies.



In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, it is important to note that, in order that healthcare delivery not be delayed or baulked, there are stronger requirements than usual for a clear policy and process, with associated authorization, to override the “normal” access control rules in emergency situations.

## Other information

### Other health-specific information

### 9.1.2 Access to networks and network services

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.1.2, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.1.2, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.1.2, applies.

## 9.2 User access management

**Objective:** To ensure authorized user access and to prevent unauthorized access to systems and services.

### 9.2.1 User registration and de-registration

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.1, applies.

### Health-specific control

Access to health information systems that process personal health information shall be subject to a formal user registration process. User registration procedures shall ensure that the level of authentication required of claimed user identity is consistent with the level(s) of access that will become available to the user.

User registration details shall be periodically reviewed to ensure that they are complete, accurate and that access is still required.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance



- a) the accurate capture of a user's identity (e.g. Joan Smith, born March 26th 1982, currently resident at a specific address);
- b) the accurate capture, after verification, of a user's enduring professional credentials (e.g. Dr. Joan Smith, cardiologist) and/or job title (e.g. Susan Jones, Medical Receptionist);
- c) the assignment of an unambiguous user identifier.

### Other information

### 9.2.2 User access provisioning

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.2, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.2, applies.

User access provisioning procedures should clearly determine whether users will or will not have access to personal health information.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.2, applies.

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.3, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.3, applies.

In the discussion that follows, several access control strategies are specified that can help significantly to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of personal health information. These are:

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- In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, health information systems containing personal health information should support role-based access control capable of mapping each user to one or more roles and each role to one or more system functions.

Health information systems should associate users (including health professionals, supporting staff and others) with the records of subjects of care and allow future access based on this association.

### Other information

#### 9.2.4 Management of secret authentication information of users

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.4, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.4, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health, although it should be noted that time pressures found in health delivery situations can make effective use of passwords difficult to employ. Many health organizations have considered the adoption of alternative authentication technologies to address this problem.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.4, applies.

Control

## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.5, applies.

### 9.2.6 Removal or adjustment of access rights

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.6, applies.

### Health-specific control

All organizations that process personal health information shall, as soon as possible, terminate the user access privileges with respect to such information for any departing permanent or temporary employee, third-party contractor or volunteer upon termination of employment, contracting, or volunteer activities.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.6, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, it is important to note the many examples in healthcare of students, interns and locums who have retained their access privileges after cessation of their internship, locum, etc. Especially in large hospitals, large numbers of temporary staff will typically have short-term access to personal health information. The termination of the access rights of such staff needs to be carefully managed. At the same time, in healthcare, many transactions take place well after the time of care (e.g. the sign-off of medical transcriptions). This can significantly complicate the process of removing access rights in a timely fashion and these transactions should be taken into account when designing and implementing procedures on the removal of access rights.

Health organizations should seriously consider immediate termination of access rights following the supply of a resignation notice, notice of dismissal, etc. wherever an increased risk is perceived from the continuation of such access.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.2.6, applies.

### 9.3 User responsibilities

Objective: To make users accountable for safeguarding their authentication information.

### 9.3.1 Use of secret authentication information

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.3.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.3.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing health information should, when determining user responsibilities, respect the rights and ethical responsibilities of health professionals, as agreed in law and as accepted by members of health professional bodies.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.3.1, applies.

**ISO 27799:2016(E)**

## 9.4 System and application access control

Objective: To prevent unauthorized access to systems and applications.

### 9.4.1 Information access restriction

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.1, applies.

### Health-specific control

Health information systems processing personal health information shall authenticate users and should do so by means of authentication involving at least two factors.

Access to information and application system functions related to the processing personal health information should be isolated from (and separate to) access to information processing infrastructure that is unrelated to the processing of personal health information.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, special consideration should be given to the technical measures by which a subject of care is securely authenticated when accessing all or part of his/her own information (in those health information systems that permit such access). Similar emphasis should also be given to the ease of use of such measures, especially for handicapped subjects of care, and to provisions for access by substitute decision makers.

### 9.4.2 Secure log-on procedures

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.2, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.2, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.2, applies.

### 9.4.3 Password management system

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.3, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.3, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.3, applies.

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.4, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.4, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.4, applies.

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.5, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 9.4.5, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

Objective: To ensure proper and effective use of cryptography to protect the confidentiality, authenticity and/or integrity of information.

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 10.1.1, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 10.1.1, applies.

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, guidance on policy for the issuance and use of digital certificates in healthcare and on the management of keys can be found in ISO 17090-3.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 10.1.1, applies.

**ISO 27799:2016(E)**

### 10.1.2 Key management

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 10.1.2, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 10.1.2, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

Guidance on key management can be found in ISO 17090-3.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 10.1.1, applies.

## 11 Physical and environmental security

## 11.1 Secure areas

Objective: To prevent unauthorized physical access, damage and interference to the organization's information and information processing facilities.

### 11.1.1 Physical security perimeter

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.1, applies.

### Health-specific control

Organizations processing personal health information should use security perimeters to protect areas that contain information processing facilities supporting such health applications. These secure areas should be protected by appropriate entry controls to ensure that only authorized personnel are allowed access.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, it is important to acknowledge that in many healthcare settings, the instantiation of security perimeters is especially challenging. Many operational areas are permeated by subjects of care. Indeed, there is perhaps no other industrial sector where the public has more extensive access to operational areas than in healthcare. At the same time, a safe environment needs to be maintained that preserves the physical safety and security of subjects of care, as well as of the data and systems that may be accessible within that environment. For example, a patient may be left unattended in an examining room (e.g. to allow the patient to change into a gown for physical examination), despite the presence of a functioning workstation in the room. Workstation security in healthcare cannot therefore depend entirely upon the exclusion of patients from a security perimeter. This is in contrast with a bank where customers might never be left unattended in areas with functioning workstations. Moreover, unlike clients of other industrial sectors, clients in healthcare are often unable to physically provide for their own personal safety and security.

Physical security measures for information should be coordinated with physical security and safety measures for subjects of care. Healthcare organizations have a duty to protect both.

### Other information

### 11.1.2 Physical entry controls

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.2, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.2, applies.

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations that process personal health information should take sensible steps to ensure that the public are only as close to IT equipment (servers, storage devices, terminals and displays) as physical constraints and clinical processes demand.

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.3, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.3, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.4, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.4, applies.

See the health-specific implementation guidance in [11.1.2](#).

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.5, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.5, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

Control



**ISO 27799:2016(E)**

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.6, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.1.6, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, it is important to note that the provision of healthcare includes distinct circumstances where the public (subjects of care and their support companions) are physically admitted into areas with vast amounts of sensitive information (e.g. laboratory testing where workflow may dictate gathering information from subjects of care in the same area where data from previous subjects is currently being processed, emergency room treatment areas where companions or relatives could potentially be exposed to significant amounts of sensitive verbal and visual information on other subjects of care; bedside computing/nursing workstations located near patient rooms). Those physical areas in healthcare that gather health information through interview and that contain systems where data are viewed on screen should therefore be subject to additional scrutiny.

To ensure that the privacy of subjects of care is maintained, healthcare often requires that notices be posted in lifts, on doors behind which interviews may be conducted and in other areas. Such notices serve as a reminder to curtail discussion of patient cases in public areas.

## 11.2 Equipment

Objective: To prevent loss, damage, theft or compromise of assets and interruption to the organization's operations.

### 11.2.1 Equipment siting and protection

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information should situate any workstations allowing access to personal health information in a way that prevents unintended viewing or access by subjects of care and the public.

Medical devices that record or report data may also require special security considerations in relation to the environment in which they operate and to the electromagnetic emissions that occur during their operation. Healthcare organizations, especially hospitals, should ensure that the siting and protection guidelines for IT equipment minimize exposure to such emissions.

### 11.2.2 Supporting utilities

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.2, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.2, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.



ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.2, applies.

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.3, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.3, applies.

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, health organizations should give serious consideration to the shielding of network and other cabling in areas with high emissions from medical devices.

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.4, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.4, applies.

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, health organizations should give serious consideration to the shielding of equipment in areas with high emissions from medical devices.

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.5, applies.

In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations providing or using equipment, data or software to support a healthcare application containing personal health information shall not allow such equipment, data, or software to be removed from the site or relocated within it without authorization by the organization.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.5, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.5, applies.

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.6, applies.

### Health-specific control

**ISO 27799:2016(E)**

In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information shall ensure that any use, outside its premises, of medical devices that record or report data has been authorized. This should include equipment used by remote workers, even where such usage is perpetual (i.e. where it forms a core feature of the employee's role, such as for ambulance personnel, therapists, etc.)

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.6, applies.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.6, applies.

### 11.2.7 Secure disposal or reuse of equipment

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.7, applies.

### Health-specific control

In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing health information applications shall securely erase or else destroy all media containing health information application software or personal health information when the media are no longer required for use.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.7, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.7, applies.

### 11.2.8 Unattended user equipment

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.8, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.8, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health. See also [9.3](#).

### 11.2.9 Clear desk and clear screen policy

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.9, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 11.2.9, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

## Other information

## 12 Operations security

## 12.1 Operational procedures and responsibilities

### 12.1.1 Documented operating procedures

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.1.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.1.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

### 12.1.2 Change management

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.1.2, applies.

### Health-specific control

In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information shall, by means of a formal and structured change control process, control changes to information processing facilities and systems that process personal health information to ensure the appropriate control of host applications and systems and continuity of patient care.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.1.2, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

It is important to note that inappropriate, inadequately tested or incorrect changes to the processing of personal health information can have disastrous consequences for patient care and safety. The change process should explicitly record and assess the risks of the change.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.1.2, applies.

### Other health-specific information

ISO/TS 14441 contains detailed guidance on conformance testing of EHR systems, including use of test data.

**ISO 27799:2016(E)**

### 12.1.3 Capacity management

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.1.3, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.1.3, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.1.3, applies.

#### 12.1.4 Separation of development, testing and operational environments

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.1.4, applies.

### Health-specific control

In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information shall separate (physically or virtually) development and testing environments for health information systems processing such information from operational environments hosting those health information systems. Rules for the migration of software from development to operational status shall be defined and documented by the organization hosting the affected application(s).

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.1.4, applies.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.1.4, applies.

## 12.2 Protection from malware

Objective: To ensure that information and information processing facilities are protected against malware.

### 12.2.1 Controls against malware

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.2.1, applies.

### Health-specific control

In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information shall implement appropriate prevention, detection and response controls to protect against malicious software and shall implement appropriate user awareness training.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.2.1, applies.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.2.1, applies.

## 12.3 Backup

Objective: To protect against loss of data.

### 12.3.1 Information backup

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.3.1, applies.

### Health-specific control

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information shall back up all personal health information and store it in a physically secure environment to ensure its future availability.

To protect its confidentiality, personal health information should be backed up in an encrypted format.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.3.1, applies.

## 12.4 Logging and monitoring

Objective: To record events and generate evidence.

### 12.4.1 Event logging

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.4.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.4.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, health information systems processing personal health information should create a secure audit record each time a user accesses, creates, updates or archives personal health information via the system. The audit log should uniquely identify the user, uniquely identify the data subject (i.e. the subject of care), identify the function performed by the user (record creation, access, update, etc.), and note the time and date at which the function was performed.

When personal health information is updated, a record of the former content of the data and the associated audit record (i.e. who entered the data on what date) should be retained.

Messaging systems used to transmit messages containing personal health information should keep a log of message transmissions (such a log should contain the time, date, origin and destination of the message, but not its content).

The organization should carefully assess and determine the retention period for these audit logs, with particular reference to clinical professional standards and legal obligations, in order to enable investigations to be carried out when necessary and to provide evidence of misuse where necessary.

The health information system's audit logging facility should be operational at all times while the health information system being audited is available for use.

- a) allow the identification of all system users who have accessed or modified a given subject of care's record(s) over a given period of time;
- b) allow the identification of all subjects of care whose records have been accessed or modified by a given system user over a given period of time.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.4.1, applies.

Of all security requirements protecting personal health information, among the most important are those relating to audit and logging. These ensure accountability for subjects of care entrusting their information to electronic health record systems and also provide a strong incentive to users of such systems to conform to the policies on the acceptable use of these systems. Effective audit and logging can help to uncover misuse of health information systems or of personal health information. These processes can also help organizations and subjects of care to obtain redress against users abusing their access privileges.

### 12.4.2 Protection of log information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.4.2, applies.

Audit records shall be secure and tamper-proof. Access to system audit tools and audit trails shall be safeguarded to prevent misuse or compromise.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.4.2, applies.

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, it is important to note that the evidentiary integrity of audit records can play an essential role in coroners' inquests, investigations into medical malpractice, and other judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings. In such proceedings, the actions of health professionals and the timing of events are sometimes determined through an examination of changes and updates to an individual's personal health information.

In relation to the maintenance of confidentiality and integrity of health records and the integrity and availability of health information systems, the following criteria are stated in IETF RFC 3881:

Audit data shall be secured at least to the same extent as the underlying data and activities being audited. This includes access controls as well as data integrity and recovery functions. This document acknowledges the need for, but does not specify, the policies and technical methods to accomplish this.

It is conceivable that audit data might have unintended uses, e.g. tracking the frequency and nature of system use for productivity measures. ASTM standard E2147-01 states, in 5.3.10, “Prohibit use for other reasons than to enforce security and to detect security breaches in record health information systems, for example, the audits are not to be used to explore activity profiles or movement profiles of employees.”





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ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.4.3, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.4.3, applies.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.4.3, applies.

#### 12.4.4 Clock synchronisation

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.4.4, applies.

### Health-specific control

Health information systems supporting time-critical-shared care activities shall provide time synchronization services to support tracing and reconstitution of activity timelines where required.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.4.4, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, it is important to note that the timing of events as electronically recorded in personal health information and in audit records can play an essential role in processes, such as coroners' inquests, investigations into medical malpractice and other judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings where it is essential to accurately determine a clinical sequence of events.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.4.4, applies.

## 12.5 Control of operational software

Objective: To ensure the integrity of operational systems.

### 12.5.1 Installation of software on operational systems

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.5.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.5.1, applies.

## 12.6 Technical vulnerability management

Objective: To prevent exploitation of technical vulnerabilities.

### 12.6.1 Management of technical vulnerabilities

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 12.6.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance







E-mail between health professionals which contains personal health information should be encrypted in transit. One approach to this involves the use of digital certificates. See Bibliography for a list of International Standards related to the use of digital certificates in health environments.

## Other information

### 13.2.4 Confidentiality or non-disclosure agreements

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 13.2.4, applies.

In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information shall have a confidentiality agreement in place that specifies the confidential nature of this information. The agreement shall be applicable to all personnel accessing health information.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 13.2.4, applies.

The agreement above should include reference to the penalties that are possible when a breach in the information security policy is identified.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 13.2.4, applies.

### 14.1 Security requirements of information systems

#### 14.1.1 Information security requirements analysis and specification

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.1.1, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.1.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

### Other health-specific information

#### 14.1.1.1 Uniquely identifying subjects of care

## Health information systems processing personal health information:

- ## Health-specific implementation guidance

Organizations processing personal health information should ensure that data from which personal identification can be derived is only retained where it is necessary to do so and that deletion, anonymization and pseudonymization techniques are appropriately used to the full extent possible to minimize the risk of unintentional disclosures of personal information.

### Health-specific control

## Health-specific implementation guidance

Health information systems should make it possible to check that hardcopy print-outs are complete (e.g. page 3 of 5).

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.1.1, applies.

**ISO 27799:2016(E)**

### 14.1.2 Securing application services on public networks

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.1.2, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.1.2, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, it is important to note the care that shall be taken in determining whether data involved in electronic commerce and online transactions contain personal health information. If they do, this information needs to be appropriately protected. Of special concern in healthcare are data related to billing, medical claims, invoice lines, requisitions, and other e-commerce data from which personal health information can be derived.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.1.2, applies.

### 14.1.3 Protecting application services transactions

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.1.3, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.1.3, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

See Health-specific implementation guidance in [14.1.2](#).

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.1.3, applies.

#### 14.1.3.1 Publicly available health information

### Health-specific controls

Publicly available health information (as distinct from personal health information) should be archived.

The integrity of publicly available health information should be protected to prevent unauthorized modification.

The source (authorship) of publicly available health information should be stated and its integrity should be protected.

## 14.2 Security in development and support processes

Objective: To ensure that information security is designed and implemented within the development lifecycle of information systems.

### 14.2.1 Secure development policy

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.1, applies.



ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.1, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.1, applies.

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.2, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.2, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.2, applies.

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.3, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.3, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.3, applies.

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.4, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.4, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

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### 14.2.5 Secure system engineering principles

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.5, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.5, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.5, applies.

### 14.2.6 Secure development environment

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.6, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.6, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

### 14.2.7 Outsourced development

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.7, applies.

Implementation guidance:

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.7, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.7, applies.

### 14.2.8 System security testing

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.8, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.8, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

Control

### Health-specific control

Clinical users should be involved in the testing of clinically relevant system features.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.2.9, applies.

**Objective:** To ensure the protection of data used for testing.

Control

## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 14.3.1, applies.

ISO/TS 14441 contains detailed guidance on conformance testing of EHR systems, including use of test data.

## 15.1 Information security in supplier relationships

Objective: To ensure protection of the organization's assets that is accessible by suppliers.

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 15.1.1, applies.

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## Implementation guidance

### Other health-specific information

### Other information

### 15.1.2 Addressing security within supplier agreements

## Control

## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

### Other information

### 15.1.3 Information and communication technology supply chain

## Control

## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

## Other information

## 15.2 Supplier service delivery management

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- a) to ensure effective and timely response to security incidents;
- b) to ensure that there is an effective and prioritized escalation path for incidents, such that crisis management and business continuity management plans can be invoked in the right circumstances and at the right time;
- c) to collect and preserve incident-related audit logs and other relevant evidence.

Organizations should inform the subject of care whenever personal health information has been unintentionally disclosed.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

### Other information

### Other health-specific information

Information security events may include patient safety incidents where data processing or data transfer played a role.

### 16.1.3 Reporting information security weaknesses

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 16.1.3, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 16.1.3, applies.

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## Other information

#### 16.1.4 Assessment of and decision on information security events

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 16.1.4, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 16.1.4, applies.

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information should assess whether the information security event involved personal health information.

Control

## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 16.1.5, applies.

Control

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 16.1.6, applies.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 16.1.6, applies.

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 16.1.7, applies.



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## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 16.1.7, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information may need to consider the implications of collecting evidence for purposes of establishing medical malpractice and may also need to consider inter-jurisdictional requirements when health information systems are accessible across jurisdictional boundaries.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 16.1.7, applies.

## 17 Information security aspects of business continuity management

### 17.1 Information security continuity

Objective: Information security continuity should be embedded in the organization's business continuity management systems.

### 17.1.1 Planning information security continuity

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 17.1.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 17.1.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, the following considerations are important in healthcare environments. Business continuity management, which includes disaster recovery, is increasingly recognised as a requirement for health organizations and the priority it is accorded continues to grow. Reflecting the rigorous availability requirements in healthcare, a major effort ought to be invested in resilience and redundancy arrangements, not just for the technology itself, and but also for the cross-training of health personnel.

Business continuity planning in healthcare is especially challenging for the information security professional, as any plans will need to be suitably integrated with the organization's plans for handling power failures, implementing infection control and dealing with other clinical emergencies. Indeed, the invocation of any of these is likely to lead directly to the invocation of the business continuity management plan, if only to provide support additional to that normally available. However, recent incidents such as the SARS outbreak have shown that major incidents may cause a staff shortage, which may then severely limit the ability to successfully operate business continuity management plans.

Health organizations should ensure that their business continuity management planning includes health crisis management planning. Patient lives may depend upon access to patient data and it is essential that this be taken into account during planning. Catastrophes and force majeure crises that would disable IT systems in other industrial sectors are the very events that may precipitate a health crisis in which timely access to health information is crucial.

Health organizations also need to ensure that the plans that they develop are regularly tested on a “programmatic” basis. The tests included in that programme should build upon one another, proceeding from desktop testing to modular testing to synthesis of likely recovery times and then finally to full rehearsals. Such a programme is thus low risk and delivers real improvement in the general level of awareness in its user population.

## Other information

### 17.1.2 Implementing information security continuity

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 17.1.2, applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 17.1.2, applies.

In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, organizations processing personal health information should identify processes, systems and other relevant equipment that are vital in health care delivery.

Fall-back procedures should be considered as necessary in order to counter failure in processes, systems and relevant equipment that are vital in health care delivery.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 17.1.2, applies.

### 17.1.3 Verify, review and evaluate information security continuity

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 17.1.3, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 17.1.3, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 17.1.3, applies.

## 17.2 Redundancies

Objective: To ensure availability of information processing facilities.

### 17.2.1 Availability of information processing facilities

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 17.2.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 17.2.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

**ISO 27799:2016(E)**

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 17.2.1, applies.

## 18 Compliance

## 18.1 Compliance with legal and contractual requirements

Objective: To avoid breaches of legal, statutory, regulatory or contractual obligations related to information security and of any security requirements.

### 18.1.1 Identification of applicable legislation and contractual requirements

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.1.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.1.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, health organizations should put a compliance auditing programme in place that addresses the full life cycle of operations, not just of those processes that identify issues, but also of those that review outcomes and that decide on updates to the ISMS.

Health organizations' audit programmes should be formally structured to cover all elements of this International Standard, all areas of risk and all implemented controls, within a 12 month to 18 month cycle.

In the highly regulated and audited environment of many health organizations, the ISMF ought to set itself the objective of establishing a graduated compliance auditing framework, whose bottom layer is self-audit by the process operators and managers. Thereafter, the auditing of the ISMS, on behalf of the ISMF, internal auditing, controls assurance assessments and external audits, ought to be defined in a manner that allows each layer to draw confidence from all of the layers below it.

### 18.1.2 Intellectual property rights

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.1.2, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.1.2, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.1.2, applies.

### 18.1.3 Protection of records

Control

## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

## Other information

#### 18.1.4 Privacy and protection of personally identifiable information

Control

## Health-specific implementation guidance

Where possible, informational consent of subjects of care should be obtained before personal health information is e-mailed, faxed, communicated by telephone conversation, or otherwise disclosed to parties external to the healthcare organization.

## Implementation guidance

## Health-specific implementation guidance

An example of legislation or regulation requiring informational consent from subjects of care is the Council of Europe Recommendation, R (97)5 On the Protection of Medical Data, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 12 February 1997:

Before a genetic analysis is carried out, the data subject should be informed about the objectives of the analysis and the possibility of unexpected findings.

They should be informed of unexpected findings if:

- a) not prohibited by domestic law
- b) the person himself has asked for this information
- c) the information is not likely to cause serious harm:
  - 1) to his/her health
  - 2) to his/her consanguine or uterine kin, to a member of his/her social family, or to a person who has a direct link with his/her genetic line
- d) this information is of direct importance to him/her for treatment or prevention.

An example of a professional ethical guideline requiring patient consent is the World Health Association's Declaration of Helsinki regarding medical research on human subjects.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.1.4, applies.

**ISO 27799:2016(E)**

### Other health-specific information

Further information on the management of information consent in healthcare can be found in ISO/TS 17975.

### 18.1.5 Regulation of cryptographic controls

Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.1.5, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.1.5, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

## 18.2 Information security reviews

Objective: To ensure that information security is implemented and operated in accordance with the organizational policies and procedures.

### 18.2.1 Independent review of information security

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.2.1, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.2.1, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.2.1, applies.

### 18.2.2 Compliance with security policies and standards

## Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.2.2, applies.

## Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.2.2, applies.

## Health-specific implementation guidance

No additional guidance for information security management in health.

## Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.2.2, applies.

### 18.2.3 Technical compliance review

#### Control

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.2.3, applies.

#### Implementation guidance

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.2.3, applies.

#### Health-specific implementation guidance

Special attention is drawn to compliance for the purpose of technical interoperability, as large-scale health information systems typically consist of many interoperating systems.

#### Other information

ISO/IEC 27002:2013, 18.2.3, applies.

## Threats to health information security

- a) Masquerade by insiders (including masquerade by health professionals and support staff). Masquerade by insiders consists of system use by those who make use of accounts that are not their own. As such, it constitutes a breakdown in secure user authentication. Many cases of masquerade by insiders are committed simply because it makes it easier for people to do their work. For example, when one health professional may replace another at a workstation and continues to work on an already active subject of care record, there is a strong temptation to skip the inconvenience of the first user logging out and the second user logging in. Nevertheless, masquerade by insiders is also the source of serious breaches in confidentiality. Indeed, the majority of breaches of confidentiality are committed by organizational insiders. Masquerade by insiders can also be carried out with the intention to cover up cases where harm has been caused.

- b) Masquerade by service providers (including contracted maintenance personnel, such as system software engineers, hardware repair personnel and others who may have a pro-forma legitimate reason to access systems and data). Masquerade by service providers consists of contracted personnel using their privileged access to systems (such as during on-site testing and repair of malfunctioning equipment) to gain unauthorised access to data. As such, it is a breach of, or failure to properly provide for, secure outsourcing arrangements. Though rarer than masquerade by insiders, masquerade by service providers can also be the source of serious breaches in personal health information confidentiality.
- c) Masquerade by outsiders (including hackers). Masquerade by outsiders occurs when unauthorised third parties gain access to system data or resources, either by impersonating an authorised user or by fraudulently becoming an authorised user (for example, through so-called “social engineering”). In addition to hackers, masquerade by outsiders is also committed by journalists, private investigators, and “hacktivists” (hackers who work on behalf of, or in sympathy with, political pressure groups). Masquerade by outsiders constitutes a failure of one or more of the following security controls:
  - 1) user identification;
  - 2) user authentication;
  - 3) origin authentication;
  - 4) access control and privilege management.
- d) Unauthorised use of a health information application. It can be surprisingly easy to obtain unauthorised access to a health information application (for example, by a subject of care walking up to an unattended workstation in a physician care office and browsing the screen). Authorized users can also perform unauthorised actions, such as maliciously altering data. In the UK, Dr. Harold Shipman attempted to hide the notorious murder of scores of his patients by altering records on his computer system.

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In general, unauthorised use of health information applications constitutes a failure of one or more of the following:

- 1) workgroup access control (e.g. by allowing a user to access the records of subjects of care with whom the user has no legitimate relationship);
  - 2) accountability and audit control (e.g. by allowing inappropriate user actions to go unnoticed);
  - 3) personnel security (e.g. by providing inadequate training to users or making clear that their access to records is subject to audit and review).
- e) Introduction of damaging or disruptive software (including viruses, worms, and other “malware”). Most IT security incidents involve computer viruses. Introduction of damaging or disruptive software constitutes a failure in anti-virus protection or in software change control. While typically within the remit of network sysops, the proliferation of email worms and viruses as well as exploitation by hackers of weaknesses in server software have combined to greatly complicate measures taken to prevent the introduction of damaging or disruptive software.
- f) Misuse of system resources.

This threat includes users using health information systems and services for personal work, users downloading non-work related information from the Internet onto computers intended solely to support health information systems, users setting up databases or other applications for non-work related matters, or users degrading the availability of health information system by, for example, using network bandwidth to download streaming video or audio for personal use. Such misuse constitutes a failure to enforce acceptable use agreements or to educate users about the importance of maintaining the integrity and availability of health information resources.

- g) Communications infiltration.

Communications infiltration of electronic communications occurs when an individual (a hacker, for example) tampers with the normal flow of data across a network. The most common result is a denial of service attack (in which servers or network resources are effectively taken off-line), but other forms of communication infiltration are possible (such as a replay attack, in which a valid but out-of-date message is retransmitted in a way that makes it appear current). Communications infiltration constitutes a failure of intrusion detection and/or network access controls and/or risk analysis (specifically vulnerability analysis) and/or system architecture (which needs to be designed with defence against denial-of-service attacks).

- h) Communications interception.

If not encrypted during transmission, the confidentiality of information contained in a message can be abrogated by intercepting the communication. This is simpler than it sounds, as anyone on local area network can potentially install a so-called “packet sniffer” on their workstation and monitor much of the network traffic on their local area network, including reading emails during transmission. Hacker tools are readily available to automate and simplify much of this process. Communications interception constitutes a failure in secure communications.

- i) Repudiation.

This threat includes users denying that they sent a message (repudiation of origin) and users denying that they received a message (repudiation of receipt). Unambiguously establishing whether personal health information flowed from one health professional to another can be an essential feature of investigations into medical malpractice. Repudiation can constitute a failure to apply controls such as digital signatures on e-prescriptions (an example of repudiation of origin) or controls, such as read receipts on email messages (an example of repudiation of receipt).

- j) Connection failure (including failures of health information networks).

All networks are subject to periodic service outages. Quality of service is a major factor in the provisioning of network services in healthcare. Connection failure can also result from misdirection

- k) Embedding of malicious code.

l) Accidental misrouting.

m) Technical failure of the host, storage facility, or network infrastructure.

n) Environmental support failure (including power failures and disruptions of service arising from natural or man-made disasters).

o) System or network software failure.

p) Application software failure (e.g. of a health information application).

q) Operations error.

- 1) operations controls;
- 2) personnel security (including effective training);
- 3) disaster recovery (including data backup and restoration).

Maintenance errors are mistakes by those responsible for maintaining systems hardware and software. Maintenance errors can be committed by staff members, as well as by third party employees contracted to perform maintenance duties. Such errors can, in turn, endanger the confidentiality of protected data. Misconfiguration of software during installation is a common

s) User error.

- 1) user controls (including user interfaces designed with security in mind), and

t) Staff shortage.

u) Theft by insiders (including theft of equipment or data).

v) Theft by outsiders (including theft of equipment or data).

w) Wilful damage by insiders.

x) Wilful damage by outsiders.

y) Terrorism.

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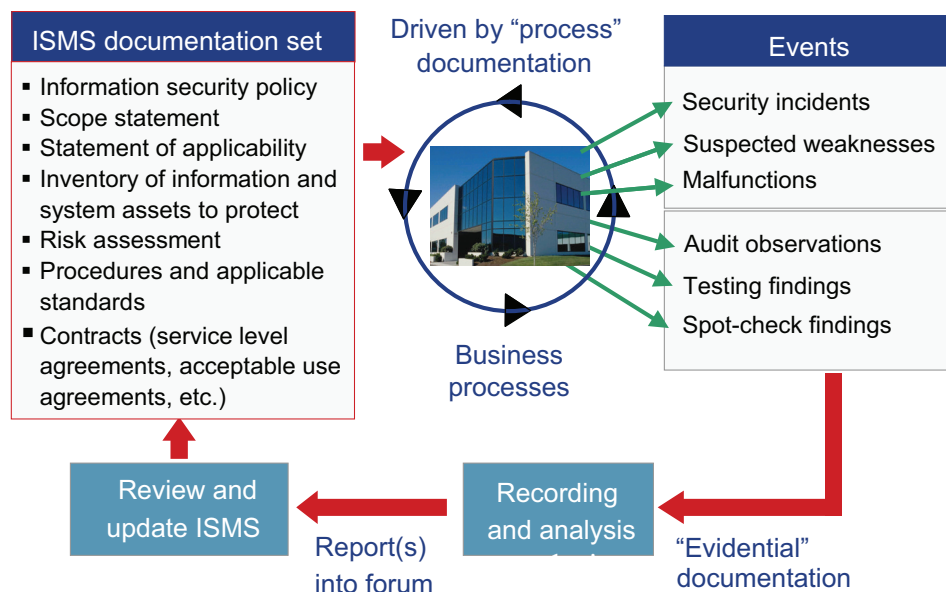
## Annex B (informative)

### Practical action plan for implementing ISO/IEC 27002 in healthcare

#### B.1 Taxonomy of the ISO/IEC 27001 and ISO/IEC 27002 International Standards

Implementers of ISO/IEC 27002 in health environments will find that most of its control objectives will apply in almost all situations. However, users of the standard in healthcare need also to recognize situations in which additional control objectives may be needed. This is often the case where clinical processes intersect with specialist devices such as scanners, infusion machines, etc., even if the security controls only relate to maintenance of device data integrity. Different jurisdictions will also have different legal frameworks that may change the required scope of compliance activities.

ISO/IEC 27001 introduces the concept of an information security management system (ISMS) and describes the need for this detailed framework of controls when an effort is made to meet the security objectives revealed as relevant by risk assessment. International experience and recognised information security best practice principles indicate that on-going compliance with ISO/IEC 27002 can best be ensured by the implementation of a management system as depicted in [Figure B.1](#).



**Figure B.1 — Information Security Management System**

Health organizations should, where possible, integrate their ISMS with the information governance processes described below, and take account of the guidance given in the following clauses.

A common mistake made, especially by public health organizations where there is typically no central requirement for formal accreditation or certification, is to describe compliance with ISO/IEC 27002 as being a matter of adoption of a checklist. To be truly compliant, organizations need to be able to demonstrate an operational ISMS in which there are appropriate compliance auditing processes. This compliance fits well with the regulatory frameworks under which health organizations typically operate.

It is important that a health organization have the evident support of management before trying to achieve compliance with ISO/IEC 27002. As management's active involvement and support are essential for success, that involvement should include written and verbal statements of commitment to the importance of health information security and recognition of its benefits. Risk assessment brings with it the potential for discovering serious risks that in turn may require substantial changes to existing processes in order for these risks to be mitigated. The personal willingness of management to subject themselves and the organization to changes in processes and to be pioneers of those changes needs to be clearly shown.

The four subclauses that follow (B.4 to B.7) provide guidance on establishing and then operating an ISMS in a health environment. This requires pursuing a cycle of activities, as illustrated in Figure B.2.



### B.4.1 Selecting and defining a compliance scope

In theory, ISO/IEC 27002 can be applied to whole organizations. However, experience from implementations in the UK and elsewhere has shown that very large units struggle to complete the work involved and to deliver the necessary level of compliance in one attempt.

In healthcare, the extensive interdependency of functions makes scope definition a challenge. For this reason, it is all the more important to get it right. Compliance scopes that cover no more than two to three healthcare sites or approximately 50 staff or approximately 10 processes have been found to work very well. For this reason, it is best for primary care practices, clinics, home visit teams, hospital



In health organizations as elsewhere, activity in recent years has successfully moved information security from being a technical or “back office” function to being a prominent corporate responsibility.

To appropriately balance the “deliverability” of compliance with corporate benefit, many public sector organizations, including health organizations, have defined an initial scope of “Secure Delivery of IT Services”. Though related more directly to infrastructure than to business processes, this scope confers real corporate benefits insofar as it accomplishes critical tasks, including securing the infrastructure as a whole, stimulating the implementation of any needed updates to the corporate security processes, and improving identity management, information security awareness and business continuity management. Typically, in many of these areas, corporate benefits over and above the chosen scope will result.

- the degree of visibility sought;
- the balance of business and technical involvement intended;
- the degree of local or centralized control sought;
- the extent of manageability that the scope will introduce.

Before making the final selection of a scope, it may be appropriate to undertake a summary level gap analysis on a sampling basis to get a “feel” for how much work different areas may involve before making the final selection. Whether an “easy” or “hard” area is chosen is a matter for the organization to decide, although logically, commensurately more corporate benefit is to be gained from taking on the “hard” aspects of the scope.

Another typical area in which errors are made is the interpretation of scope. Scope includes the services delivered by third parties and the delivery of required supporting processes but not a determination of how those supporting processes are delivered.

SLAs and contracts can also assist in defining scope, in as much as these instruments effectively define the scope boundary. Even if they do not do so clearly in some cases, reviewing them will still prove worthwhile for clarifying likely priorities for improvement.

A formal scope statement needs to be produced, especially if certification is sought under ISO/IEC 27001. The statement ought to be publicised widely within the organization. It is essential that the scope statement define the boundary of the compliance activity in terms of people, processes, places, platforms and applications.

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See [6.1.1](#) for minimum requirements relating to scope statements.

Once the scope has been selected, the next stage of the planning process is a gap analysis in which a high-level assessment of compliance is undertaken. Best practice has shown that the focus of this analysis needs to be on organizational responsibility, implementation, and documentation of security practices as well as the evidence used to support the analysis. This is consistent with health practices where appropriate skills, records and procedures are all important.

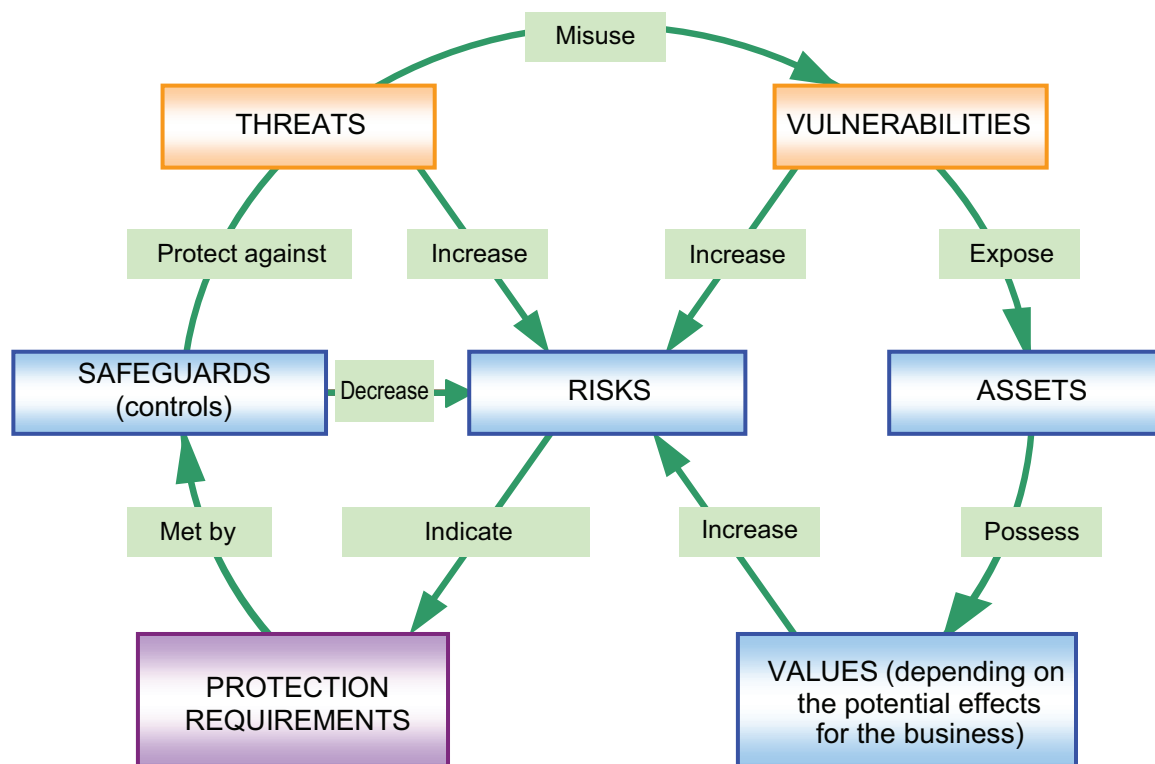
The purpose of gap analysis is to provide initial guidance on required improvements, pending detailed evaluation of the risk assessment and risk treatment (see [B.4.4](#)). Also, gap analysis can suggest an initial priority rating for such improvements.

At the heart of the ISMS, an appropriate information security management forum (ISMF) should be established to oversee and direct information security. What constitutes “appropriate” in this context varies among organizations and will also vary across the spectrum of healthcare.

The organizations' (virtual or actual) Information Security Officer should, among other duties, report to the forum and provide it with secretariat services, and should also be responsible for collating, publishing and commenting on the reports received by Forum members.

#### B.4.4 Assessing risks to health information

A risk is composed of a causal relationship between several risk sources. [Figure B.3](#) shows the relationship between risks and risk sources in ISO/IEC 18028-4, making it clear that a risk value is determined from the surrounding asset values, threats, and vulnerabilities.



**Figure B.3 — Relationship between risks and risk sources in a simplified risk model**

Both ISO/IEC 27001 and ISO/IEC 27005 define the components of risk analysis and management as follows:

- identification of business assets, threats and vulnerabilities;
- business impact assessment;
- threat likelihood and vulnerability assessment;
- determination of risk levels;
- identification of recommended security controls;
- comparison with existing controls, allowing identification of areas of residual risk;
- options for risk treatment, including, direct management, risk acceptance, avoidance, managed transference, etc.;
- risk assessment and risk treatment plans;
- mapping of decisions taken against the list of ISO/IEC 27002 controls.

All of these are applicable to healthcare, although “business impact assessment” clearly needs to include many different health professions. Information security risk assessments performed by health organizations would benefit from following this model.

In addition to the list above, it is important to also establish an understanding of the dependency of business processes upon IT services, hardware, software, media and locations. Without this understanding following the business impact analysis, understanding the failure scenarios that are relevant will be nearly impossible. In light of the severe impacts possible in health organizations, understanding these dependencies is essential.

a) High levels of risk: Healthcare carries relatively high risks, especially in areas such as laboratories, emergency departments and operating theatres. A finding of low risk in the health information activities that support such areas ought therefore to be questioned, although the trap of assuming that every health information activity directly relates to care delivery would be equally wrong.

- clinical and nursing process knowledge, including care protocols and pathways;
- knowledge of the formats of clinical data and the capability for the misuse of this data;
- knowledge of external environment factors that could exacerbate or moderate any or all of the levels of the risk components described previously;
- information on IT and medical device attributes and performance/failure characteristics;
- knowledge of incident histories and actual case impact scenarios;
- detailed knowledge of systems architectures;
- familiarity with change management programmes that would change any or all of the risk component levels.

When assessing risks, actual past incidents are by default realistic but they may not be the worst case. Defining worst cases may well require specialist input. Health professionals are likely to benefit from the input of IT staff who will be able to identify failure modes and scenarios requiring assessment.

- d) **Compliance obligations:** Since healthcare is a sector with significant compliance obligations (both legal and professional) and risk management responsibilities, an output that maps together related risk assessments, performed by different disciplines or functional groups, ought to be considered as an aid to good information governance and also to help ensure the integrity of individual risk assessments.

#### B.4.4 Risk management

Risk assessment is intended as a means to an end. It should not an end in itself, but it often ends up that way. This is especially true in environments with resource constraints, such as those found in many health organizations. Risk management responds to the risk assessment by identifying which controls need to be strengthened, which controls are already effectively in place and which additional controls the organization needs to implement in order to reduce the residual level of risk to an acceptable level.

The interconnection of health information systems makes risk management in healthcare especially challenging, as few health organizations can act as if their systems were isolated islands of information. Risk assessment in healthcare frequently raises questions about information custodianship, ownership, and responsibility. Effective risk management must ensure the alignment of responsibility for information security with the authority to make risk management decisions.

The label “risk treatment” highlights the activity of reducing risk to acceptable levels (recognising that sufficient resources will never be available to allow even a try at complete risk avoidance). Risk treatment is particularly apposite for health organizations, bringing with it as it does the concepts of treat, transfer, or tolerate in relation to risks.

- a) health sector, industry, or organizational standards;
- b) clinical priorities;
- c) reactions of subjects of care.

A decision taken, usually by the ISMF, to not implement a particular control may be entirely valid but ought to be formally recorded for periodic review and reassessment. Health organizations should document accepted risks.

#### B.4.5 Security improvement planning

Often formatted as a Gantt chart, the plan should be made available to clinical and other staff, as the plan is typically not a confidential document. Indeed, it can often be useful in demonstrating progress and process improvement.

#### B.4.6 Statement of applicability

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### B.4.7 ISMS document set

The ISMS model shown in [Figure B.1](#) above lists the documentation required. The essential documents are

- information security policy of the organization,
- scope statement,
- statement of applicability,
- inventory of information assets and system assets to be protected,
- risk assessment plans and reports,
- procedures and standards agreed upon, and
- contractual agreements (including service level agreements and acceptable use agreements).

In addition, the operation of the ISMF and its success in meeting clinical needs and priorities can be materially enabled if these priorities are documented by the clinical and corporate governance functions and then held by the ISMF as a part of the documentation set. This document then provides backup material in support of risk acceptance decisions taken by the ISMF.

### B.4.8 Potential for facilitation by the use of tools

The process of ISO/IEC 27002 compliance involves a range of steps that generate a significant quantity of information and documentation. However, health organizations exist in a dynamic environment in which risks change and new controls are implemented. The overall integrity of this information and documentation therefore needs to be maintained.

Furthermore, the staged, compounding, extending and iterative nature of the processes involved means that the information is repeatedly manipulated and reused in multiple processes, with the results of a later process often requiring amendments to be made in an earlier process. Finally, decisions will typically be taken in the light of a range of factors that will require considerable cross-referencing.

Health organizations ought to consider adopting tools to support their ISO/IEC 27002 compliance. Although database tools are by no means mandatory, evidence has shown that they provide significant benefits. There are a wide range of tools available, at a range of costs, from the simple and cheap to the extensive and more expensive. Health organizations, when considering the adoption of tools, should seek out evidence of successful use by others and should consider carefully the associated training and maintenance costs, although these are unlikely to be major.

National health organizations will presumably want to maximise compliance while minimising costs. Clearly, it is unnecessary for hundreds of hospitals to do essentially the same risk assessments. To address this problem, the UK National Health Service, for example, developed a toolkit in which generic risk models of typical health environments had been captured. Local use of the tool thereafter focuses upon creating a customized solution consistent with the local situation while still maintaining compliance with a centrally defined model. A similar approach could also be taken to the ISO/IEC 27002 process steps.

Tool support to the ISO/IEC 27002 process should cover the following:

- a) scoping and scope statement production ([B.4.1](#));
- b) gap analysis and gap analysis reporting ([B.4.2](#));
- c) asset definition and asset inventory reporting;
- d) secure improvement planning, reporting and implementation status recording ([B.4.6](#));
- e) Statement of Applicability recording and reporting ([B.4.7](#));
- f) security resource definition and reporting.



More advanced tools additionally provide additional features such as asset valuation tools, dependency modelling support, countermeasure libraries, security documentation support, auditing support, “What If?” functionality and graphical reports.

## B.4.9 Summary

Figure B.4 summarizes the steps in establishing an ISMS.

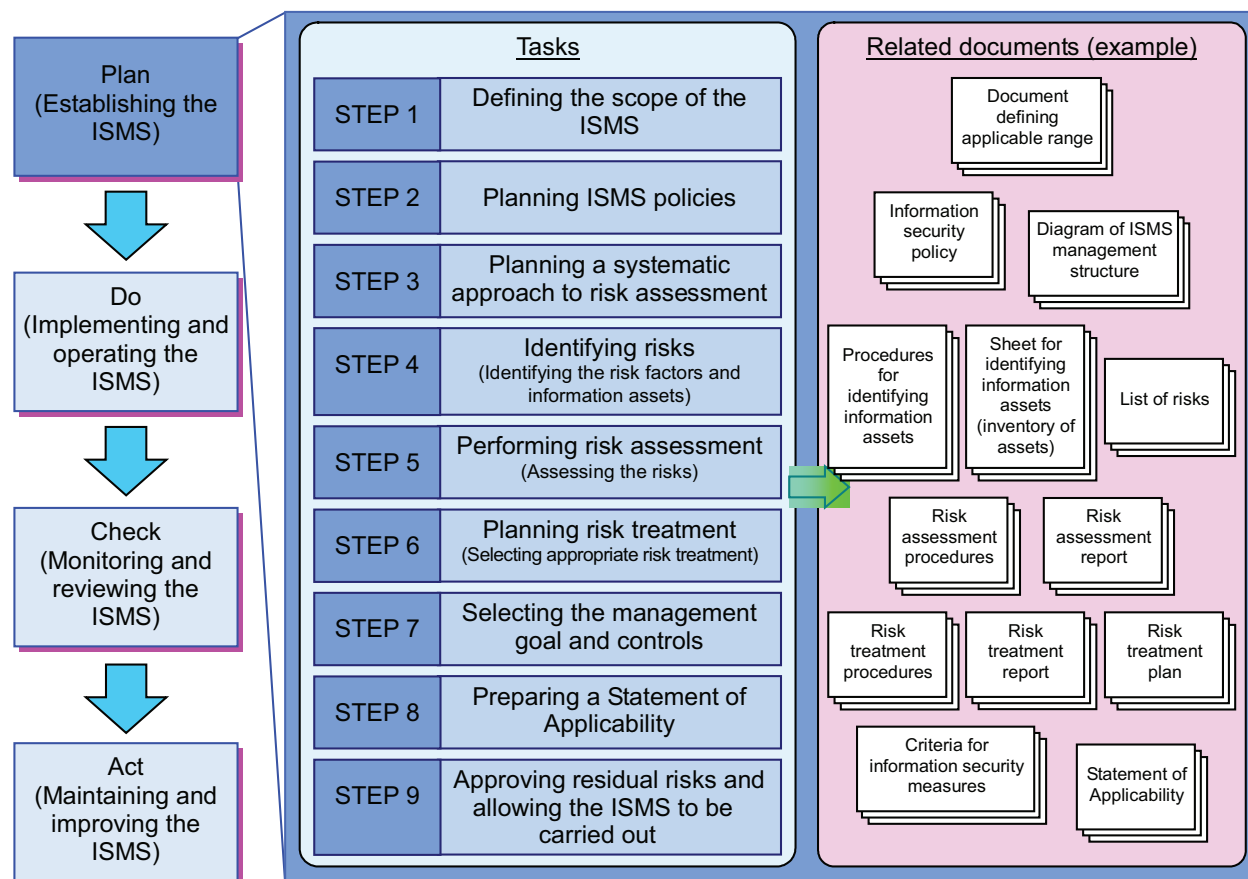


Figure B.4 — Tasks and related documents for establishing the ISMS

## B.5 Doing: implementing and operating the ISMS

Implementing the ISMS involves several steps:

- Creating a risk treatment plan: Once risks have been identified through a risk analysis, these risks should be examined and either accepted by senior management or mitigated where the risk is deemed unacceptable. A risk treatment plan clarifies the activities that need to be carried out to reduce unacceptable risks. It includes a plan for implementing the security controls chosen (based on the results of the risk assessment) to reduce or mitigate these unacceptable risks. The ISMF is responsible for ensuring that this plan is carried out. Ideally, a risk treatment plan will include schedules, priorities, and detailed work plans, and will also allocate responsibilities for implementing security controls. In healthcare, approving such plans can involve both information governance and clinical governance functions.
- Allocating resources: An essential role of management is to provide the necessary resources (people, systems and funding) to ensure the security of health information assets.

- The task involved in implementing and operating the ISMS and the related documents produced are summarized in [Figure B.5](#).







Users of this International Standard who choose to follow this route are strongly advised to engage such auditors at the start of their programme such that their support and “buy-in” are obtained progressively and so that their ultimate approval is more likely, given that there will be no ‘surprises’ at the final audit stage.

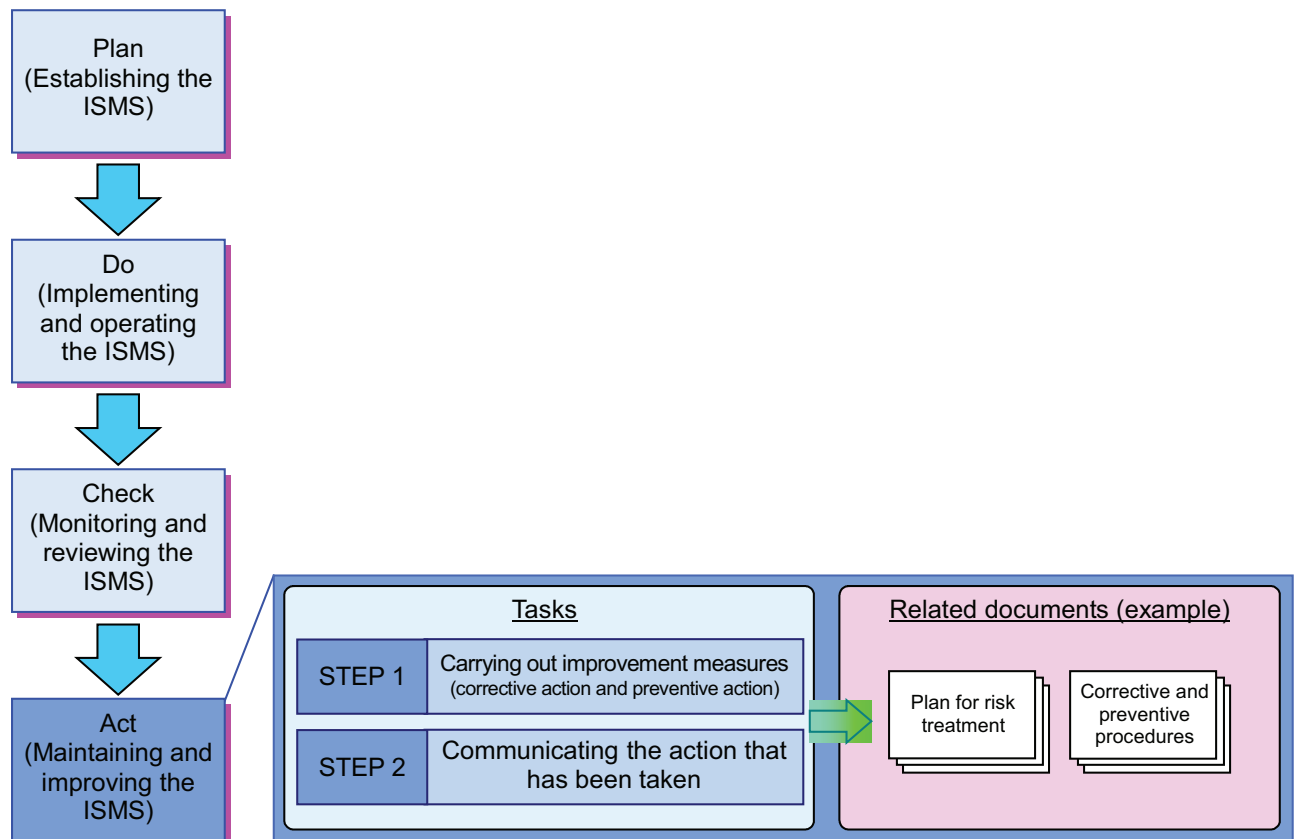
The tasks involved in monitoring and reviewing the ISMS and the related documents produced are summarized in [Figure B.6](#).



The statement of applicability described in [B.4.7](#) can be an effective tool for keeping those responsible for clinical and corporate governance appraised of the current state of the ISMS. The format used is also typically suitable for use as an assessment or evidence tool in support of external auditing, clinical assurance and other regulatory inspections.

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The tasks and related documents for maintaining and improving the ISMS are summarized in [Figure B.7](#).



**Figure B.7 — Tasks and related documents for monitoring, reviewing, maintaining and improving the ISMS**

## Checklist for conformance to ISO 27799

The checklist in Table C.1 is intended to help organizations processing personal health information determine whether they conform to this International Standard. It lists the controls from this International Standard and contains columns to check where conformance to the controls has been achieved. What follows is an explanation of the columns.

- Alternatively, the present overall compliance can be presented in percentage figures.

- The checklist can be used during all types of internal and external auditing and assessment of information security-related work of any organization processing personal health information. The list is designed to give a good overview over the information security situation and also easily be a support for follow-ups.

**Table C.1 — Information security controls — Check list for ISO 27799**

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
5.1	Management direction for information security								
5.1.1	Policies for information security								
1	Is there a written information security policy?							(Would or should demand?)	
2	Is the written information security policy approved by management?							(Would or should demand?)	

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
3	Is the written information security policy published, and the communicated to all employees and relevant external parties? (how, where, when?)							(Would or should demand?)	
4	Does the information security policy express:								
A	— the need for health information security?								
B	— the goals of health information security?								
C	— compliance scope, as described in 0.0.0.0?								
D	— legislative, regulatory, and contractual requirements, including those for the protection of personal health information and the legal and ethical responsibilities of health professionals to protect this information?								
E	— arrangements for notification of information security incidents, including a channel for raising concerns regarding confidentiality, without fear of blame or recrimination?								
F	— the identification of processes and systems that are vital in health care (i.e. failure may lead to adverse patient effects)								
G	— the breadth of health information?								
H	— the rights and ethical responsibilities of staff, as agreed in law, and as accepted by members of professional bodies?								
I	— the rights of subjects of care, where applicable, to privacy and to access to their records?								
J	— the obligations of clinicians with respect to obtaining informational consent from subjects of care and maintaining the confidentiality of personal health information?								
K	— the legitimate needs of clinicians and health organizations to be able to overcome normal security protocols when healthcare priorities, often linked to the incapacity of certain subjects of care to express their preferences, necessitate such overrides; also the procedures to be employed to achieve this?								

**Table C.1** (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
L	— the obligations of the respective health organizations, and of subjects of care, where healthcare is delivered on a “shared care” or “extended care” basis?								
M	— the protocols and procedures to be applied to the sharing of information for the purposes of research and clinical trials?								
N	— the arrangements for, and authority limits of, temporary staff, such as locums, students and “on-call” staff?								
O	— the arrangements for, and limitations placed upon, access to personal health information by volunteers and support staff such as clergy and charity personnel?								
P	— the implications of security measures on patient safety?								
Q	q) the implications of information security measures on the performance of health information systems?								
5.1.2	Review of the policies for information security								
1	Is there an ongoing staged review that addresses the totality of the policy annually?								
2	Is the policy reviewed after the occurrence of a serious security incident?								
	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the review address:								
A	— the changing nature of the health organization's operations and the concomitant changes to risk profile and risk management needs?								
B	— the changes made to the IT infrastructure of the organization, and the concomitant changes these bring to the organization's risk profile?								
C	— the changes identified in the external environment that similarly impact the organization's risk profile?								

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
D	— the latest controls, compliance and assurance requirements and arrangements mandated by jurisdictional health bodies or by new legislation or regulation?								
E	— the latest guidance and recommendations from health professional associations and from information privacy commissioners regarding the protection of personal health information?								
F	— the results of legal cases tested in the courts, which have established or negated precedents or established practices?								
G	— the challenges and issues regarding the policy, as expressed to the organization by its staff, subjects of care and their partners and care givers, researchers and governments (e.g. privacy commissioners)?								
H	— reports on patient safety incidents in order to devise mitigations in those cases where the effectiveness patient safety incident is the result of failures of information security measures								
6.1	Internal organization								
6.1.1	Information security roles and responsibilities								
1	Does the organization:								
A	— clearly define and assign information security responsibilities?								
B	— have an Information Security Management Forum (ISMF) in place to ensure that there is clear direction and visible management support for security initiatives involving the security of health information, as described in 0? Where:								
B1	— is there at a minimum, at least one individual responsible for health information security within the organization?								
B2	— is there a health information security forum that meet regularly, on a monthly or near-to-monthly basis?								



**Table C.1** (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
B3	— is there a produced formal scope statement that defines the boundary of compliance activities in terms of people, processes, places, platforms and applications?								
B4	— is there an information security officer that, among other duties, report to the ISMF and provide it with secretariat services?								
B5	— is the officer responsible for collecting, reporting and commenting on the reports received by forum members?								
B6	— is the scope of the statement widely publicized and reviewed within the organization to ensure the adoption of the statement by the organization's information, clinical and corporate governance groups?								
6.1.2	Segregation of duties								
1	In addition to the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization, where feasible, segregate duties and areas of responsibility in order to reduce opportunities for unauthorized modification or misuse of personal health information?								
6.1.3	Contact with authorities								
	No additional guidance								
6.1.4	Contact with special interest groups								
	No additional guidance								
6.1.5	Information security in project management								
1	Is patient safety considered as a project risk in projects that involves the processing of personal health information?								
6.2	Mobile devices and teleworking								
6.2.1	Mobile device policy								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization also:								
A	— specifically assess the risks involved when using mobile devices in healthcare?								

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
B	— have a policy on the precautions to be taken when using mobile computing devices, including guidance and restrictions on the use of personal devices within the organisation, together with controls to meet jurisdictional privacy requirements?								
C	— require their mobile users to follow this policy?								
6.2.2	Teleworking								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization also:								
A	— prepare policy on the precautions to be taken when teleworking?								
B	— ensure that teleworking users of health information systems abide by this policy?								
7.1	Prior to employment								
7.1.1	Screening								
1	Does the organization whose staff, contractors or volunteers process (or are expected to process) personal health information verify at the time of job application each applicant's:								
A	— identity?								
B	— current address?								
C	— previous employment?								
D	— applicable health professional qualifications where such are professionally accredited (e.g. physicians, nurses, etc.)?								
2	Does the organization, when an individual is hired for a specific information security role, make sure that the candidate:								
A	— has the necessary competence to perform the security role?								
B	— can be trusted to take the role, especially if the role is critical for the organization?								
7.1.2	Terms and conditions of employment								
1	in addition to the controls given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization, whose staff members are involved in processing personal health information, also:								

**Table C.1** (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
A	— document such involvement in relevant job descriptions?								
B	— document relevant job descriptions for security roles and responsibilities as laid down in the organization's information security policy?								
C	— pay special attention to the roles and responsibilities of temporary or short-term staff such as locums, students, interns, etc.?								
2	in addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization also:								
A	— ensure that employees or contractors have a duty to report breaches of health information security or patient privacy?								
B	— wherever possible, undertake criminal background checks, where not already carried out as part of a health professional accreditation?								
<a href="#">7.2</a>	During employment								
<a href="#">7.2.1</a>	Management responsibilities								
	No specific question (but see guidance in <a href="#">7.2.1</a> )								
<a href="#">7.2.2</a>	Information security awareness, education and training								
1	In addition to implementing the controls given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization also:								
A	— ensure that information security education and training are provided on induction and that regular updates in organizational security policies and procedures are provided to all employees and, where relevant, third-party contractors, researchers, students and volunteers who process personal health information?								
2	— make employees of the organization and where relevant, third-party contractors, aware of disciplinary process and consequences with respect to breaches of information security?								
<a href="#">7.2.3</a>	Disciplinary process								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the health organization, also:								

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
A	— follow procedures that are reflected in policy and thus known to the subject(s) of the disciplinary process?								
B	— in addition to complying with applicable laws, comply with the agreements reached between health professionals and health professional bodies?								
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Termination and change of employment</b>								
<b>7.3.1</b>	<b>Termination or change of employment responsibilities</b>								
1	— is there a process to ensure the termination of previous rights that are no longer required for staff after a change of role in the same way as for individuals who are leaving the organization's employ?								
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Responsibility for assets</b>								
<b>8.1.1</b>	<b>Inventory of assets</b>								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization that process personal health information, also:								
A	— account for health information assets (i.e. maintain an inventory of such assets)?								
B	— have a designated custodian of these health information assets?								
C	— have rules for acceptable use of these assets that are identified, documented and implemented?								
2	Does the organization have rules for maintaining the currency of information assets (e.g. the currency of a drug database) and the integrity of these assets (e.g. the functional integrity of medical devices that record or report data)?								
3	Are medical devices that record or report data uniquely identified?								
4	Does such unique identification of medical devices also take into account that such devices may require special security considerations in relation to the environment in which they operate?								
5	Does such unique identification of medical devices also take into account the electromagnetic emissions that occur during their operation?								

**Table C.1** (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
8.1.2	Ownership of assets								
	No additional guidance								
8.1.3	Acceptable use of assets								
	No additional guidance								
8.1.4	Return of assets								
1	In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization ensure that all employees and contractors, upon termination of employment, return all personal health information in their possession that is in non-electronic form and ensure that all personal health information in their possession in electronic form is updated on relevant systems and then securely deleted from any devices on which it has resided?								
8.2	Information classification								
8.2.1	Classification of information								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization uniformly classify personal health information confidential?								
2	Is personal health information subject to suitably careful protection at all times?								
3	Is criticality identified through a risk assessment with respect to:								
A	— traditional classification of data on the basis of its sensitivity to disclosure?								
B	— the extent to which the availability and integrity of the information are essential for the ongoing provision of healthcare?								
C	— processes, IT devices, software, locations and personnel?								
8.2.2	Labelling of information								
1	Do all health information systems processing personal health information inform users of the confidentiality of personal health information accessible from the system (e.g. at start-up or log-in)?								
2	Is hardcopy output labelled as confidential when it contains personal health information?								

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
3	Are users of the health information systems able to recognize when they access personal health information?								
8.2.3	Handling of assets								
	No additional guidance								
8.3	Media handling								
8.3.1	Management of removable media								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization ensure that:								
A	— media containing personal health information is either physically protected or else encrypted?								
B	— status and location of media containing unencrypted personal health information is monitored?								
C	— media containing personal health information is encrypted while its media are in transit?								
D	— media containing personal health information is protected from theft while its media are in transit?								
8.3.2	Disposal of media								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization ensure that:								
A	— all personal health information securely is erased or else the media destroyed when no longer required for use?								
A1	— secure disposal of data is performed prior to repair or disposal?								
A2	— secure disposal of data is also performed on medical devices that record or report data?								
8.3.3	Physical media transfer								
	No additional guidance								
9.1	Business requirements of access control								
9.1.1	Access control policy								
1	Does the organization control access to personal health information?								
2	Do the users of health information systems generally only access personal health information:								

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
A	— when a healthcare relationship exists between the user and the data subject (the subject of care whose personal health information is being accessed)?								
B	— when the user is carrying out an activity on behalf of the data subject?								
C	— when there is a need for specific data to support this activity?								
3	Does the organization have an access control policy governing access to personal health information?								
4	Is the organization's policy on access control established on the basis of predefined roles with associated authorities which are consistent with, but limited to, the needs of that role?								
5	Does the access control policy, as a component of the information security policy framework described in <a href="#">5.1.1</a> :								
A	— reflect professional, ethical, legal and subject-of-care-related requirements?								
B	— take into account the tasks performed by health professionals and the task's workflow?								
6	Does the organization identify and document all parties with whom patient data is exchanged?								
A	Are contractual agreements made with these parties regulating access and privileges, prior to exchange of patient data?								
7	Are the authorizations in policies and processes clear enough to meet requirement to override "normal" access controls in emergency situations?								
8	Are federated identity and access management solutions implemented?								
<a href="#">9.1.2</a>	Access to networks and network services								
<a href="#">9.2</a>	User access management								
<a href="#">9.2.1</a>	User registration and de-registration								
1	Is there a formal user registration process for users that access systems that process personal health information?								



Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
2	Do the user registration procedures ensure that the level of authentication required of claimed user identity is consistent with the level(s) of access that will become available to the user?								
3	Are user registration details periodically reviewed to ensure that they are complete, accurate and that access is still required?								
4	In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the task of identifying and registering users of health information systems include all of the following:								
A	— the accurate capture of a user's identity (e.g. Joan Smith, born March 26th 1982, currently resident at a specific address);								
B	— the accurate capture, after verification, of a user's enduring professional credentials (e.g. Dr. Joan Smith, cardiologist) and/or job title (e.g. Susan Jones, Medical Receptionist)?								
C	— the assignment of an unambiguous user identifier?								
<a href="#">9.2.2</a>	User access provisioning								
1	Does the user access provisioning procedures clearly determine whether users will or will not have access to personal health information?								
<a href="#">9.2.3</a>	Management of privileged access rights								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, do the health information systems containing personal health information support role-based access control capable of mapping each user to one or more roles, and each role to one or more system functions?								
2	Does a user of a health information system containing personal health information access its services in a single role?								
3	Do users who have been registered with more than one role designate a single role during each health information system access session?								

**Table C.1** (continued)

[illegible]

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization, when determining user responsibilities, respect the rights and ethical responsibilities of health professionals, as agreed in law and as accepted by members of health professional bodies?								
<a href="#">9.4</a>	System and application access control								
<a href="#">9.4.1</a>	Information access restriction								
1	Do health information systems processing personal health information authenticate users by means of authentication involving at least two factors?								
2	In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, is special consideration given to the technical measures by which a subject of care is securely authenticated when accessing all or part of his/her own information (in those health information systems that permit such access)?								
3	Is similar emphasis also given to the ease of use of such measures, especially for handicapped subjects of care, and to provisions for access by substitute decision makers?								
<a href="#">9.4.2</a>	Secure log-on procedures								
	No additional guidance								
<a href="#">9.4.3</a>	Password management system								
	No additional guidance								
<a href="#">9.4.4</a>	Use of privileged utility programs								
	No additional guidance								
<a href="#">9.4.5</a>	Access control to program source code								
	No additional guidance								
<a href="#">10.1</a>	Cryptographic controls								
<a href="#">10.1.1</a>	Policy on the use of cryptographic controls								
	No additional guidance								
<a href="#">10.1.2</a>	Key management								
	No additional guidance								
<a href="#">11.1</a>	Secure areas								
<a href="#">11.1.1</a>	Physical security perimeter								
1	Does the organization use security perimeters to protect areas that contain health information processing facilities?								

**Table C.1** (continued)

[illegible]

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization situate any workstations allowing access to personal health information in a way that prevents unintended viewing or access by subjects of care and the public?								
2	Does the organization ensure that the siting and protection guidelines for IT equipment, in relation to the environment, minimize exposure to such emissions that may occur during their operation? [This is especially applicable to hospital organizations.]								
11.2.2	Supporting utilities								
	No additional guidance								
11.2.3	Cabling security								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization give serious consideration to the shielding of network and other cabling in areas with high emissions from medical devices?								
11.2.4	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization give serious consideration to the shielding of equipment in areas with high emissions from medical devices?								
11.2.5	In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization, when providing or using equipment, data or software to support a healthcare application containing personal health information, not allow such equipment, data or software to be removed from the site or relocated within it without authorization by the organization?								
11.2.6	Security of equipment and assets off-premises								
1	In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization ensure that any use, outside its premises, of medical devices that record or report data has been authorized?								

**Table C.1** (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
2	Do the devices referred to in item 1 above include equipment used by remote workers, even where such usage is perpetual (i.e. where it forms a core feature of the employee's role, such as for ambulance personnel, therapists, etc.)?								
11.2.7	Secure disposal or re-use of equipment								
1	In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization securely erase or else destroy all media containing health information application software or personal health information when the media are no longer required for use?								
11.2.8	Unattended user equipment								
1	No additional guidance for information security management in health (but see also 9.3, User responsibilities)								
11.2.9	Clear desk and clear screen policy								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization, when determining user responsibilities, respect the rights and ethical responsibilities of health professionals, as agreed in law and as accepted by members of health professional bodies?								
12.1	Operational procedures and responsibilities								
12.1.1	Documented operating procedures								
	No additional guidance								
12.1.2	Change management								
1	In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization control changes to information processing facilities and systems that process personal health information by means of a formal and structured change control process to ensure the appropriate control of host applications and systems and continuity of patient care?								
2	Does the change process, due to the potentially disastrous consequences for patient care and safety of inappropriate, inadequately tested or incorrect changes, explicitly record and assess the risks of the change?								

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
<a href="#">12.1.3</a>	Capacity management								
	No additional guidance								
<a href="#">12.1.4</a>	Separation of development, testing and operational environments								
1	In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization separate (physically or virtually) development and testing environments for health information systems processing such information from operational environments hosting those health information systems?								
2	Are rules defined and documented for the migration of software from development to operational status by the organization hosting the affected application(s)?								
<a href="#">12.2</a>	Protection from malware								
<a href="#">12.2.1</a>	Controls against malware								
1	In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization implement appropriate prevention, detection and response controls to protect against malicious software?								
2	Does the organization implement appropriate user awareness training to protect against malicious software?								
<a href="#">12.3</a>	Backup								
<a href="#">12.3.1</a>	Information backup								
1	In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization back up all personal health information and store it in a physically secure environment to ensure its future availability?								
2	Does the organization, in order to protect confidentiality, back up personal health information in an encrypted format?								
<a href="#">12.4</a>	Logging and monitoring								
<a href="#">12.4.1</a>	Event logging								
1	Do the health information systems processing personal health information, create a secure audit record each time a user accesses, creates, updates or archives personal health information via the system?								



**Table C.1** (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
2	Does the audit log uniquely identify the user, uniquely identify the data subject (i.e. the subject of care), identify the function performed by the user (record creation, access, update, etc.), and note the time and date at which the function was performed?								
3	When personal health information is updated, is a record of the former content of the data and the associated audit record (i.e. who entered the data on what date) retained?								
4	When messaging systems are used to transmit messages containing personal health information:								
A	Is there a log of such message transmissions?								
B	Does that log contain the time, date, origin and destination of the message, but not its content?								
5	Is there a carefully assessed and determined retention period for these audit logs, with particular reference to clinical professional standards and legal obligations, in order to enable investigations to be carried out when necessary and to provide evidence of misuse where necessary?								
6	Is the health information system's audit logging facility operational at all times while the health information system being audited is available for use?								
7	Are health information systems containing personal health information provided with facilities for analysing logs and audit trails that:								
A	Allow the identification of all system users who have accessed or modified a given subject of care's record(s) over a given period of time?								
B	Allow the identification of all subjects of care whose records have been accessed or modified by a given system user over a given period of time?								
12.4.2	Protection of log information								
1	Are audit records secure and tamper-proof?								

**Table C.1 (continued)**

[illegible]

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
	No additional guidance								
13.2.3	Electronic messaging								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization, when transmitting personal health information by electronic messaging, ensure its confidentiality and integrity?								
2	Are e-mail between health professionals that contain personal health information encrypted in transit?								
13.2.4	Confidentiality or non-disclosure agreements								
1	In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization have a confidentiality agreement in place that specifies the confidential nature of this information?								
2	Is the agreement applicable to all personnel accessing health information?								
3	Does the agreement above include reference to the penalties that are possible when a breach in the information security policy is identified?								
14.1	Security requirements of information systems								
14.1.1	Information security requirements analysis and specification								
14.1.1.1	Uniquely identifying subjects of care								
1	Do the health information systems processing personal health information ensure that each subject of care can be uniquely identified within the system?								
2	Are health information systems processing personal health information capable of merging duplicate or multiple records if it is determined that multiple records for the same subject of care have been created unintentionally or during a medical emergency?								
3	Does the organization ensure that data from which personal identification can be derived is only retained where it is necessary to do so, and that deletion, anonymization and pseudonymization techniques are appropriately used to the full extent possible to minimize the risk of unintentional disclosures of personal information?								

**Table C.1** (continued)

[illegible]

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
1	In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization have established acceptance criteria for planned new information systems, upgrades and new versions?								
2	Are such suitable tests of the system carried out prior to acceptance?								
3	Are clinical users involved in the testing of clinically relevant system features?								
14.3	Test data								
14.3.1	Protection of test data								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization ensure that no actual personal health information is used as test data?								
15.1	Information security in supplier relationships								
15.1.1	Information security policy for supplier relationships								
1	In addition to implementing the control given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization assess the risks associated with access by external parties to these systems or the data they contain, and then implement security controls that are appropriate to the identified level of risk and to the technologies employed?								
15.1.2	Addressing security within supplier agreements								
	No additional guidance								
15.1.3	Information and communication technology supply chain								
	No additional guidance								
15.2	Supplier service delivery management								
15.2.1	Monitoring and review of supplier services								
	No additional guidance								
15.2.2	Managing changes to supplier services								
	No additional guidance								
16.1	Management of information security incidents and improvements								
16.1.1	Responsibilities and procedures								
	No additional guidance								
16.1.2	Reporting information security events								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization have security incident management responsibilities and procedures that:								
A	— ensure effective and timely response to security incidents?								

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
B	— ensure that there is an effective and prioritized escalation path for incidents such that crisis management and business continuity management plans can be invoked in the right circumstances and at the right time?								
C	— collect and preserve incident-related audit logs and other relevant evidence?								
2	Does the organization inform the subject of care whenever personal health information has been unintentionally disclosed?								
3	Does the organization inform the subject of care whenever lack of availability of health information systems may have adversely affected their care?								
4	Does the organization perform an information security assessment on incidents that could led to, disguise misuse of or erroneous use of IT equipment or events that could otherwise imply an information security incident such as fire, brake-in or theft of hardware?								
16.1.3	Reporting information security weaknesses								
	No additional guidance								
16.1.4	Assessment of and decision on information security events								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization processing personal health information assess whether the information security event involved personal health information?								
16.1.5	Response to information security incidents								
	No additional guidance								
16.1.6	Learning from information security incidents								
	No additional guidance								
16.1.7	Collection of evidence								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization consider the implications of collecting evidence for purposes of establishing medical malpractice, and also to consider inter-jurisdictional requirements when health information systems are accessible across jurisdictional boundaries?								

Table C.1 (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
<a href="#">17.1</a>	Information security continuity								
<a href="#">17.1.1</a>	Planning information security continuity								
1	Does the organization ensure that business continuity management includes health crisis management planning?								
2	Is the organization cognizant of the role that health information systems play in patient continuity of care?								
3	Is the organization prepared if/when IT systems fail?								
<a href="#">17.1.2</a>	Implementing information security continuity								
1	In addition to the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization identify processes, systems and other relevant equipment that are vital in health care delivery?								
2	Are fall-back procedures considered as necessary in order to counter failure in processes, systems and relevant equipment that are vital in health care delivery?								
<a href="#">17.1.3</a>	Verify, review and evaluate information security continuity								
	No additional guidance								
<a href="#">17.2</a>	Redundancies								
<a href="#">17.2.1</a>	Availability of information processing facilities								
	No additional guidance								
<a href="#">18.1</a>	Compliance with legal and contractual requirements								
<a href="#">18.1.1</a>	Identification of applicable legislation and contractual requirements								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization put a compliance auditing programme in place that addresses the full life cycle of operations, not just of those processes that identify issues, but also of those that review outcomes and that decide on updates to the ISMS?								
2	Are the organization's audit programmes formally structured to cover all elements of this International Standard, all areas of risk and all implemented controls, within a 12 month to 18 month cycle?								



**Table C.1** (continued)

Clause	Control	Yes	No	Priority	Reference document	Budgeted	Responsible	Note	Follow-up
3	Does the ISMF set itself the objective of establishing a graduated compliance auditing framework, whose bottom layer is self-audit by the process operators and managers?								
4	Are, thereafter, the auditing of the ISMS, on behalf of the ISMF, internal auditing, controls assurance assessments and external audits, defined in a manner that allows each layer to draw confidence from all of the layers below it?								
18.1.2	Intellectual property rights								
	No additional guidance								
18.1.3	Protection of records								
	No additional guidance								
18.1.4	Privacy and protection of personally identifiable information								
1	In addition to following the guidance given by ISO/IEC 27002, does the organization manage informational consent of subjects of care?								
2	Where possible, is informational consent of subjects of care obtained before personal health information is e-mailed, faxed, or communicated by telephone conversation, or otherwise disclosed to parties external to the healthcare organization?								
18.1.5	Regulation of cryptographic controls								
	No additional guidance								
18.2	Information security reviews								
18.2.1	Independent review of information security								
	No additional guidance								
18.2.2	Compliance with security policies and standards								
	No additional guidance								
18.2.3	Technical compliance review								
	No additional guidance								

## Bibliography

- 5) Withdrawn.

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