

Use Case Specification: Login to System

Basic Information

Field	Value
Use Case ID	UC-AUTH-01
Use Case Name	Login to System
Primary Actor	Patient, Doctor, Nurse, Administrator
Secondary Actors	System (Authentication Service, Audit Logger)
Brief Description	Allows an authorized user to authenticate into the NextGenHealth system using email and password. On successful login, a secure session is established.
Priority	High (Mandatory for all protected operations)
Status	Proposed / In Analysis
Module	Authentication and Access Control
Related Requirements	REQ-AUTH-001, REQ-AUTH-002, REQ-AUTH-003, REQ-SEC-003, REQ-USE-002

Preconditions

- The user has an active account in the system (registered).
- The user knows their registered email and password.
- Internet connection is available.
- Authentication service is operational.

Postconditions

- On success: User is authenticated and granted access to the system based on their role.
- A secure session is created (JWT token issued).
- Session timeout is set (30 minutes of inactivity).
- Login attempt is logged in the audit trail.
- On failure: No session is created; user remains unauthenticated.

Main Success Scenario (Basic Flow)

Step	Actor	System
1	—	Displays login form (email, password, "Login" button).
2	User	Enters registered email and correct password.
3	User	Clicks "Login".
4	System	Validates email format and checks if user exists.
5	System	Verifies password using secure hash comparison.
6	System	Checks if account is locked (e.g., after 5 failed attempts).
7	System	If valid, generates a secure session token (JWT).
8	System	Sets session timeout to 30 minutes of inactivity.

- 9 System Logs successful login in audit trail (timestamp, IP, user role).
 - 10 System Redirects user to dashboard based on role (Patient Portal, Doctor View, Admin Panel).
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Alternative Flows

A1 – Invalid Email or Password

- **Trigger:** Step 5 – Credentials do not match.
- **Steps:**
 1. System displays message: "Invalid email or password. Please try again."
 2. Increments failed login counter.
 3. Returns to login form.
- **Resume:** User may retry.
- **After 5 failures:** Account is locked (see E1).

A2 – Remember Me Option

- **Trigger:** User checks "Remember Me" before login.
 - **Modification:**
 - o Step 8: Session timeout is extended (e.g., 7 days for trusted devices).
 - o Persistent cookie is set (secure, HttpOnly).
 - **Security Note:** Not available for administrator accounts.
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Exception Flows

E1 – Account Locked After Failed Attempts

- **Trigger:** 5 consecutive failed login attempts.
- **Steps:**
 1. System locks the account.
 2. Displays message: "Account locked due to multiple failed attempts. Contact administrator or try again in 15 minutes."
 3. Logs event in audit trail.
- **Recovery:**
 - o Automatic unlock after 15 minutes, or
 - o Manual unlock by administrator.

E2 – Suspicious Activity Detected

- **Trigger:** Multiple failed logins from different locations/IPs.
- **Steps:**
 1. System flags account for review.
 2. May require additional verification (future: 2FA or email confirmation).
 3. Alert sent to administrator.
- **Note:** Out of scope for initial version, but planned.

E3 – System or Database Unavailable

- **Trigger:** Step 4 or 5 – Authentication service failure.
 - **Steps:**
 1. System logs error.
 2. Displays message: "Service unavailable. Please try again later."
 3. No authentication occurs.
 - **End:** Process aborted.
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Business Rules

- **BR-AUTH-01:** Maximum of 5 failed login attempts before account logout.
 - **BR-AUTH-02:** Session timeout after 30 minutes of inactivity (REQ-AUTH-002).
 - **BR-AUTH-03:** JWT tokens must be securely signed and short-lived.
 - **BR-AUTH-04:** Administrator accounts require 2FA (REQ-AUTH-003) — implemented in next iteration.
 - **BR-AUTH-05:** "Remember Me" not allowed for administrator roles.
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Non-Functional Requirements

ID	Requirement
REQ-PERF-002	Login page must load in less than 2 seconds.
REQ-SEC-002	All authentication traffic must use TLS 1.3+. Passwords never stored in plain text.
REQ-SEC-003	All login attempts (success/failure) must be logged in audit trail.
REQ-USE-005	Error messages must be clear and not reveal system details (e.g., avoid "User not found").
REQ-REL-001	System must support 99.9% availability during business hours.

Data Dictionary (Key Fields)

Field	Type	Required	Validation
Email	String (100)	Yes	Valid email format
Password	String	Yes	At least 8 characters (validated on server)
Remember Me	Boolean	No	Optional checkbox

Notes and Open Issues

- ☐ Future enhancement: Support Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) for all roles — currently mandatory only for administrators (REQ-AUTH-003).
- ☐ HIPAA/GDPR: All login events are auditable and retained for 3+ years (REQ-DATA-002).
- ☐ Responsive design: Login form must work on desktop, tablet, and mobile devices (REQ-USE-002).