



An Image Availability Information Standard for the Netherlands

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Netherlands Legislation - WEGIZ

Published by the **Dutch Ministry for Health, Welfare and Sport - VWS**.

WEGIZ – a law stating that all data interchange in healthcare must be done digitally.

Came into effect on July 1, 2023 – with a multi-year (2023-2028) adoption plan affecting:

- **Patient Summary** (medical specialist referral)
- **Nursing Discharge Report**
- **Medical Imaging** (images and reports)
- **Medication** (prescription and dispensation, medication overview, lab results for medication, adverse event monitoring)
- **Emergency Care**

Aligned with the European Health Data Space (EHDS) priorities for cross-border exchange.

There is now a legal requirement to use digital information exchange – provides an impetus for change.

Quality Standard

Functional specification published and maintained by the **Dutch Society of Radiology**.

"Timely, complete and reliable availability of relevant, previously performed radiological imaging studies across the boundaries of healthcare institutions increases the quality of care in terms of content and turnaround time."

A complete overview of all radiology encounters of a given patient

- realized as a chronologically ordered timeline
- available to the radiologist
- fully integrated into their working environment (EPD/PACS applications)

NEN NORM 7541 – Image Availability

Published and maintained by **NEN - Royal Netherlands Standardization Institute Foundation.**

Connecting stakeholders, in various domains, and ensuring that agreements reached are laid down in standards and guidelines - norms.

In healthcare, the norms are developed, under the guidance of NEN, by healthcare providers, patients and ICT providers.

NEN also guarantees alignment with the European and International agreements.

Two scenarios are defined for healthcare:

- Push - sending information from one source to another (point-to-point)
- Pull - retrieving information from many sources to a single point

NEN - Generic Functions

NEN also provides norms for the generic functions required to support a healthcare information sharing infrastructure:

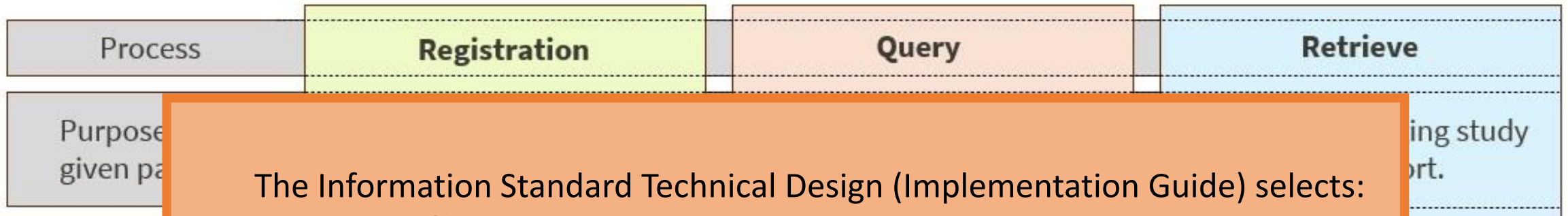
- **Identification** [NEN-7518] (of client and provider - who are you?)
- **Authentication** [NEN-7518] (establish that you really are who you say)
- **Localization** [NEN-7519] (where/what information known about the client and provider?)
- **Consent** [NEN-7517] (from the patient for the sharing of medical information)
- **Authorization** (what information are you allowed to access?)
- **Addressing** (digital address of provider or organization)
- **Logging** [NEN-7513] (audit trail - who did what, where, when and why?)

Information Standard

Published and maintained by **Nictiz**.

Takes the Quality Standard, NEN Norm(s) and EU eHealth Network Guidelines as input and defines the Functional and Technical Design of the information exchanged for the healthcare domain under consideration.

https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/eu-cooperation/ehealth-network_en#ehealth-network-guidelines



The Information Standard Technical Design (Implementation Guide) selects:

1. IHE Profiles
2. Profile Transactions
3. Transaction content (payload)
4. (Meta)data specific to Netherlands healthcare in terms of
 - a) Code Sets
 - b) Value Lists

“FAIR” data is data which meets the principles of **findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability.**

Notes:

- The Information Standard does not define the deployment architecture.
- Initial scope is limited to unstructured Imaging Reports (PDF).
- Inspiration is taken from the set of MCWG recommendations.

A **National Test and Validation Center (NTV)** is being established in the Netherlands.

- Sandbox for testing conformance of vendor products to information standards
- Independent
- Available 24/7
- With the ultimate goal (under WEGIZ legislation) of supporting product certification – leading to only certified products being available for hospital procurement.

The NTV was inspired by a trip made by a Dutch delegation to the IHE Connectathon in Montreux in 2022. Meetings with representatives from Canada, Switzerland, Austria and Charles Parisot helped in understanding the importance of a national test center.

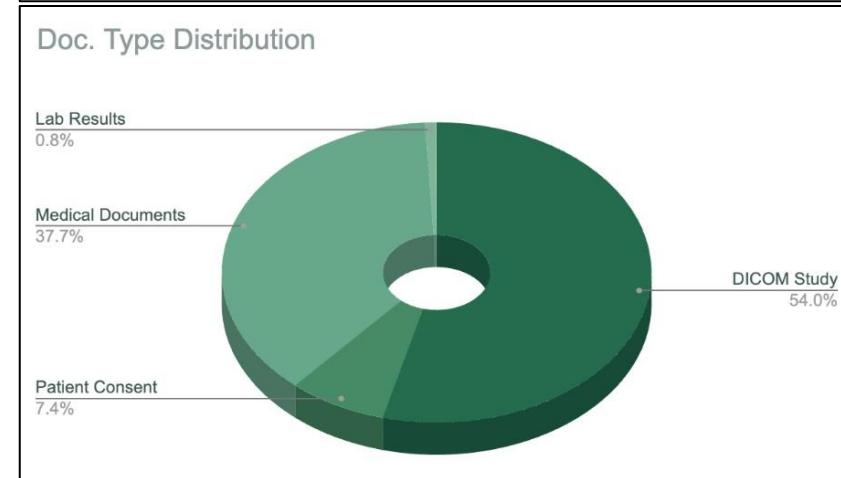
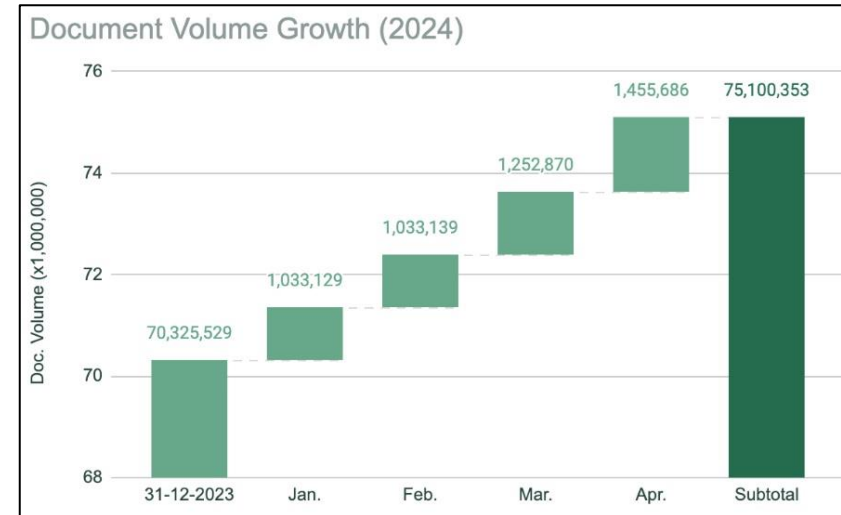


Approximately 140 hospitals in the Netherlands (academic, general and childrens) and a similar number of outpatient clinics.

Some XDS-I communities have been established, mainly around the academic hospitals, and a number of these communities are linked via XCA-I.

Existing deployments will need alignment with the emerging NEN Norms and Nictiz Image Availability Information standard - with eventual NTV certification.

Monthly statics on Imaging Study and Report sharing are being published by one vendor.



Information curtesy of www.foundahealth.com

The Nictiz Information Standard on Image Availability is available here:

[Beeldbeschikbaarheid 1.0.0-alpha.2 - Nictiz Release](#)

Or via www.nictiz.nl -> Standaarden -> Beeldbeschikbaarheid

This is an alpha version which is liable to (minor) change. The Functional Design is in Dutch and the Technical Design in English.

Any feedback is welcome via rick.busbridge@nictiz.nl

Thank you