

Project US@

Unified
Specification
for Address
in health care

The Importance of Patient Address for Health IT Developers

Having the correct address for patients is critical to the safety and efficiency of health care. Correct patient addresses support accurate and timely delivery of medications, medical supplies, and insurance claims. It also ensures that health IT can better manage health records safely and securely.



What is Project US@?

Project US@ is a federal initiative seeking to issue a unified, healthcare industry-wide specification for representing patient address. Our goal is to improve patient matching across a range of clinical and administrative transactions and enhance the performance of patient matching algorithms through improved address data quality.

Why is Patient Matching Important?

Inaccurate patient matching creates risks in a number of ways, including:



Lapses in Critical
Clinical Information



Hindered Data
Aggregation



Population Health
Approaches Deterred



Inefficient, Delayed
or Duplicate Care



Limited Public
Health Reporting



Reduced Utility of
Data for Research



Missing or Delayed Prior
Authorization for Care



Billing Errors &
Administrative
Inefficiencies

How does it help Health IT Developers?

Unified Technical Specification

Project US@ includes a unified technical specification, created by the industry for the industry in partnership with Health Level Seven (HL7) International, the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP), and X12.

Reduces Developer Burden

Many health systems have already adopted or deployed 3rd party solutions that have adopted United States Postal Service (USPS) Publication 28. The Project US@ Technical Specification and the AHIMA Companion Guide are built on Publication 28 as a foundation; maintaining the benefits of enhanced mailability and improving patient address data quality for matching while meeting health IT developers where they are.

Adopting Project US@ may help reduce burden associated with developing and continuously working to improve patient query and matching efficiency, errors experienced when de-duplicating patient records, investigating billing errors, and other challenges.



Resources Available Now!

- Review and adopt the Project US@ Technical Specification
- Work with standards development organizations to adopt guidance outlined in the Technical Specification into existing and emerging standards.
- Review and integrate Project US@ AHIMA Companion Guide best practices into enduser trainings and resources.
- Don't wait until federal, state, or local policy requires adoption or until customers request adoption of Project US@ – begin development now!
- Get engaged in ongoing Project US@ work. More details can be found [here](#).

Helps You Meet Market Needs

As more patient information is being exchanged nationwide, more patients and providers need standardized, high-quality data they can consistently rely upon for a wide range of clinical and administrative needs. Improved patient matching is a critical component to interoperability. By implementing a single specification that gives precise answers to how address data should be standardized, the quality of record matches can increase significantly and the cost and time associated with data management and error correction can be reduced.

The optimal solution to accurately matching patient records will always be a combination of technology, processes, and people.

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Learn more about our Patient Matching efforts at [HealthIT.gov](https://www.healthit.gov) and [AHIMA.org](https://www.ahima.org).