



INCLUDE

Electronic fields containing patient identification data should consistently use standard identifier conventions.

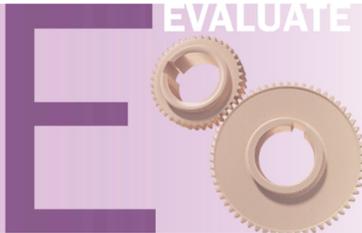
- Rationale: To promote patient safety, avoid duplicate record creation, keep information from appearing in the wrong record, and facilitate matching and interoperability, the fields containing patient identification data should consistently use standard identifier conventions to capture information using the greatest level of granularity.



DETECT EVALUATE

Use a confirmation process to help match the patient and the documentation.

- Rationale: A confirmatory step is necessary to facilitate a match between the patient and the documentation used throughout the encounter. Attributes such as a patient's name and date of birth, initials, photo, or medical record number, when entered and/or viewed at various stages in the care process, can provide an opportunity to confirm that the information being entered is for the correct individual.



Use standard attributes and attribute formats in all transactions to improve matching.

- Rationale: The use of standard attributes and attribute formats should be part of all transactions in order to improve patient matching. Patient demographic elements should be captured and stored in the same format. The lack of a standard data set can lead to records not being correctly linked to one another, impeding proper identification.



NORMALIZE

Use a standard display of patient attributes across the various systems.

- Rationale: For accurate identification, the patient's attributes should be displayed and represented in a standard format across the various health IT systems. The information should appear in the same format regardless of where the information is being displayed (e.g., on headers, wristbands, lists) throughout an organization or across organizations.



TAILOR

Include distinguishing information enhancing identification on screens, printouts, and those areas that require interventions.

- Rationale: Visual displays, including screens and printouts, should provide distinct clues. The appearance of the attribute information (font, order, type of information), the use of white space, the location of identifying information, and the incorporation of technology (e.g., photographs), in conjunction with attributes, can aid in distinguishing patients and improve identification.



INNOVATE

Integrate new technologies to facilitate and enhance identification.

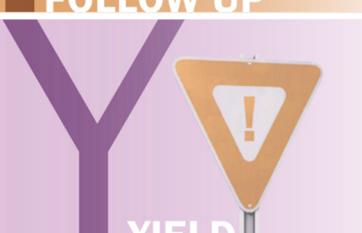
- Rationale: New technologies and new uses of technology should be evaluated and incorporated into patient identification processes. New technologies, once appropriately vetted and sufficiently mature, can facilitate accurate and timely identification. The improved use of technology facilitates matching of the appropriate patient with the correct treatment, diagnostic, or other modality.



FOLLOW UP

Implement monitoring systems to readily detect identification errors.

- Rationale: Automated monitoring of current systems, whether used to detect errors in patient identification before they are propagated (proactive) or to provide additional checks, detect inconsistencies, and aid in confirming identity (reactive), can prevent duplication and record overlay.



YIELD

Include high-specificity active alerts and notifications to facilitate proper identification.

- Rationale: Highly specific alerts and notifications can be used to alert users when they attempt to create a new record for an individual who has a current record, select an incorrect individual, or enter a name that may contain typos, transpositions, or misspellings. Monitoring how alerts are used and providing direct feedback will improve proper identification.