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Electronic Healthcare Data Platform Hospitals of Religious Orders in Austria

Cross-institutional for improved treatment

Challenges

- Effectively supporting two hospital operators with numerous sites in different federal provinces
- Successfully improving cross-institutional cooperation
- Agreeing on a common hospital information system
- Improving communication with partners

Objective

- Exchanging patient data across provinces and operators
- Increasing treatment quality and efficiency
- Connecting to the national Austrian Electronic Health Record ELGA
- Guaranteeing data protection

Cross-institution cooperation

The hospital associations Barmherzige Brüder and Vinzenz Gruppe are the largest private, non-profit hospital operators in Austria. The Vinzenz Gruppe operates seven hospitals as well as other nursing, rehabilitation and convalescent facilities, while the Barmherzige Brüder operate seven hospitals.

In Linz, both operators have been cooperating closely since 2003, jointly accessing patient data and reports in electronic form. This cooperation has led to close coordination between the departments of the two hospitals, effectively increasing both efficiency and quality of treatment. As a result, the two religious orders decided to expand their cooperation by creating a joint "Electronic Healthcare Data Platform of the Religious Orders" (eGOR).

Secure exchange of patient data and reports

eGOR enables the exchange of patient data among the hospitals and across federal provinces in compliance with data protection laws. It also provides the basis for connecting to the nationwide electronic health record (ELGA). The eHealth solution applied uses networking compliant with standards according to IHE specifications (Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise), interoperates seamlessly with the various hospital information systems of the facilities and also allows connection to province-specific eHealth platforms.

Both religious orders opted for the IHE infrastructure solution sense® from Siemens Healthcare. The scalable platform is suitable for cross-institutional and cross-sectoral networking of heterogeneous IT landscapes, and supports small healthcare networks, regional cooperations and national medical care structures alike.

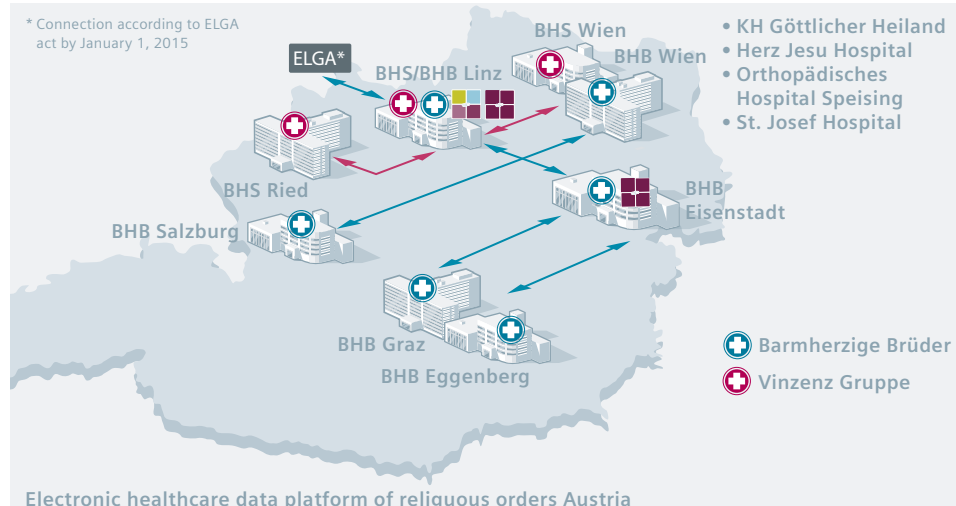
The solution portfolio used:

The networking solution *sense*:

- IHE XDS/XDS-I Affinity Domain for 13 hospitals
- One central component "sense® Communitynode" for both organizations in Linz
- Two multi client enabled "sense® Localnodes" in Linz and Eisenstadt



* Connection according to ELGA act by January 1, 2015



Electronic healthcare data platform of religious orders Austria

Crossprovince health network

By September 2012, thirteen hospitals of the Barmherzigen Brüder and Vinzenz Gruppe were federated in a single electronic health network based on *sense*®. Treatment-relevant patient data from the respective hospital information systems (HIS) are published fully automatically on the network. Authorized staff can access required medical documents or DICOM images directly from the HIS. eGOR already contains over 1 million findings, physician letters and other documents for more than 265,000 patients.

"The electronic health record used by the religious orders ensures that unnecessary repeat examinations and other patient inconveniences are avoided."

Dr. Michael Heinisch, CEO Vinzenz Gruppe

Stringent data protection safeguards

To protect sensitive patient data a stringent authorization system has been developed in cooperation with the Austrian Data Protection Commission. Data access requires both user authentication and patient consent. Access to released data is only possible within the context of the treatment, effective for a limited time only and protocolled accordingly.

The health network can be easily extended: Data exchange between multiple regions (Affinity Domains) and the connection to the central patient index of the Austrian electronic health record have already been tested successfully.

"For the patients, it means improved quality of care; for the healthcare system it provides financial relief."

Adolf Inzinger, Director of the Order Province of the Barmherzige Brüder, Austria

Benefits

- **Increased treatment quality and efficiency** due to rapid availability of patient data
- **Reduced costs** through improved coordination and decreased use of paper
- **Fewer maintenance costs** due to reduced complexity
- **Future-proof** through a standard-compliant, integrated and extensible IHE solution

Due to local restrictions to sales rights service availability and potential certification requirements we are unable to guarantee that all products listed in this brochure can actually be sold by Siemens throughout the world.

The information contained within this document provides general technical descriptions of services and configuration options, which are not prerequisites in every individual case. Availability, configuration packages and potential certification requirements can vary from country to country. For this reason the desired services and configuration should be determined in individual cases upon conclusion of contract.

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sense and *syngo.share* are software solutions of ITH icoserve technology for healthcare GmbH, Innsbruck. Please note, that both products are currently only available in selected European countries.

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