

## **HEALTH SCIENCES**

### **THE PHILIPPINE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION NETWORK (PREGINET)**

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The Philippine Research, Education and Government Information Network (PREGINET) Project is an initiative of the Advanced Science and Technology Institute to establish a nationwide broadband research and education network. Funded by the Department of Science and Technology, PREGINET is expected to improve the science and technology infrastructure of the country by interconnecting research and education institutions which require such an infrastructure for applications related to distance education, telemedicine, bioinformatics, agriculture and earth monitoring, among others. PREGINET is also designed as a testbed for the development, testing, and deployment of next generation network technologies and services. The accomplishments, status and future plans for the project are discussed in this paper.

**Keywords:** network, PREGINET, information network

### **STANDARDS FOR HEALTH INFORMATION IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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Recognizing the important role information technology will play in the health care industry, the National Institutes of Health Manila (NIH) created the Computer Research and Information Technology for Health Program (CRIT). As its pioneering project, the CRIT moved to convene the major stakeholders in the industry and form a study group to determine standards for health information in the country. In particular, the study group aimed to formulate sets of recommendations for the standardized method of collection, storage, transmission, and dissemination of health data throughout the country.

This paper contains the recommendations of the Study Group. It will be divided into three major parts: the recommended standards for data elements, the recommended standards for data interchange, and the recommended coding systems and terminology.

This paper will be initially released as a draft that will be subsequently reviewed and criticized by stakeholders in the local healthcare industry.

New technologies have appeared since the publication of this paper in 1999. Specifically, the Extensible Markup Language (XML) specification by the W3C consortium provides a framework for interoperability that surpasses the current recommendation of this paper. It is the plan of the NIH-CRIT to revise the SHIP to integrate the benefits of XML before the end of 2002.

**Keywords:** health information, NIH-CRIT

### **PROTECTING HEALTH DATA**

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### **UPDATES ON TELEMEDICINE**

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The vision of the National Telehealth Center is to be the center of excellence for e-health and telemedicine in the Philippines. Major achievements in the past year include the development of the STRATEGIC PLAN for the NATIONAL TELEHEALTH CENTER, a teledermatology application, a teleradiology system, and design of the Community Teleservice Center. Major applications areas are teleconsultation, distance education, software application development. Teleconsultation includes the development of a videoconferencing setup, customized development of videoconferencing software, protocols and policies on standards in care over e-mail or Internet, data security and privacy standards. Distance education involves the development of distance education modules