

National systems of patient unique identifiers – nations pro and against

Unique identifiers for patient records are one of the main infrastructure elements underlying Big Data initiatives.

In the English NHS, the NHS number is now a standard for all its health IT. It was reported in March this year that “[a bill to mandate the use of a common patient identifier across the health and social care system is set to become law](#)”, to extend the use across the social care systems (more information on the Bill [here](#)).

On the other side of the Atlantic, it seems that Congress instead opposes the mandate of unique identifiers at national level, as reported today (10th April) in: “[Congress Continues to Block Nationwide Unique Patient Identifier](#)” (Health Data Management website).

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