Swedish Action Plan for a National Information Structure
for individual based appropriate health and elderly care documentation

Summary
This action plan was developed as a response to a request from the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs to prepare for the mission to take a national strategic responsibility to make patient information more unambiguous, accessible and available for follow-up, as decided in the National Strategy for eHealth, issued in March 2006¹.

This work should be seen in a long term perspective and the current action plan details a three year activity program. The goal is that this work on an information infrastructure shall result in a series of information resources and regulations issued by the national board of health which shall give guidance to the structure and content for the care documentation to be used by all care giving organisations and also give implementation guides for the IT product market for care services.

The National Board of Health and Welfare also has the task of interacting with various initiatives within the European Union with similar aims which also will support the increased need for communication across borders.

The present action plan includes a conceptual framework for the future work but it is emphasized that this is a starting point that requires further work. The starting point is the care process for the patient which will result in requirements on the information required to perform the care services. Based on the general information structure specifications there will be implementation specifications for different situations that together shall direct the development of IT systems and solutions including the technical infrastructure for communication.

The project shall be conducted in close co-operation with the various stakeholders for IT in health and elderly care:
- Management on different levels, local, regional and national authorities including research
- The patients/citizens with related organisations
- Personnel in health and elderly care
- IT suppliers, internal and external as well as standards organisations

¹ http://www.sweden.gov.se/download/f6405a1c.pdf?major=1&minor=64324&cn=attachmentPublDuplicator_0_attachment
The development of the information infrastructure will be made in an iterative step-wise process where all intermediary results have to be implemented in practice to be verified for its suitability to the needs. During 2006, the goals are defined and a series of studies on available resources from Sweden as well as internationally will be started but this will continue throughout the project. In mid 2007, there will be a theoretical model of the structure ready and from Q3/2007 a stepwise development starts to be finished in mid 2009. In 2009, the project will also define the processes for further maintenance of the information resources. Throughout the project, important processes are the communication and co-operation with all the stakeholders and of course the internal project management and risk analysis.

The total costs for the project are estimated at 50 million SEK plus an additional 30 million to for the development and maintenance of the information library.