ANONYMIZATION OF MEDICAL DOCUMENTS

DeID

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averbis
text analytics
Averbis’ anonymizing software DeID permits the reliable de-identification of medical documents. Sensitive patient information remains protected and finds data-protection-friendly application in clinical studies, quality assurance and medical research.

Secondary use of medical records in research.

The provision of clinical routine data is an indispensable basis for numerous applications in medical research. Aggregated patient data can contribute greatly to the identification of disease mechanisms. Patient recruiting times in clinical studies are reduced, while continuous monitoring improves medication safety. Plausibility checks of medical decisions are efficient and can be performed at low cost.

Stringent need for protection of clinical data

Medical data is extremely vulnerable and is subject to strict data protection regulations. All personal information must be removed before such data can be released for medical research. Aside from personal names and dates of birth, protection-worthy information also includes telephone numbers, names of doctors and relatives, as well as numerous additional text passages. At times, other information such as dates may not be entirely deleted, but coarsened to a period of one to several years for specific studies.

Concentrate on the essentials

Averbis DeID assists you in identifying sensitive data in medical free-texts. Intelligent processes handle the marking of relevant passages, while numerous algorithms offer a maximum in protection, as scientific studies prove:

- Metadata transmitted separately via HL7, e.g. patient name, address and date of birth are reliably identified in free-texts.
- Pattern-based processes recognize structured information such as email addresses and dates.
- Positive and negative lists permit certain text passages to be explicitly removed or protected. Positive lists can be populated with clinic-specific features such as doctor and station names. The negative list can include product names or proper names, e.g. Parkinson’s.
- Automatic machine-learning processes recognize names and other person-identifying details not explicitly known. These include the names of relatives or private physician practices.

Your benefits at a glance

- Significant time savings / cost advantage
- Maximum accuracy and reliability
- Flexibility through individual protection mechanisms
- Detailed guidelines for data-protection-compliant anonymization

Technical Overview

- Various import and export formats (e.g. text, HL7)
- Platform-independent client-server architecture
- Simple, local installation
- Web-based graphical user interface
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Powerful Interface

Users have the ability to control and manually revise automatic anonymization at any time. The interface offers numerous mechanisms to perform checks as comfortably and time-saving as possible, including visualization possibilities, the use of shortcuts and click minimization. The program automatically assists users by handling the interpretation of details, e.g., the recognition of the day, month and year in dates.

High Flexibility

The marking of personal data and its subsequent processing are logically separated in DeID. This gives users the capability to handle certain features in study-specific fashion. Need to keep a patient’s date of birth in one study, and remove the year entirely in another? DeID lets you flexibly select the level of protection and guarantees the greatest possible level of data protection in every study.

Conclusion

DeID is an indispensable tool for distributed medical research. It supports the data-protection-friendly handling of medical documents in clinical studies, as part of quality assurance and in medical research.

„DeID significantly reduces the laborious process of anonymizing medical documents. This permits access to vast quantities of medical free texts for medical research.”
Prof. Dr. Hans-Ulrich Prokosch, Universitätsklinikum Erlangen

„Averbis’ DeID is a valuable contribution to data-protection-friendly, networked medical research.”
Johannes Drepper, TMF e.V.

„DeID is an effective tool for quick and data-protection-friendly processing of textual information.”
Prof. Dr. Kurt Marquardt, RHÖN Klinikum AG
About Averbis
Averbis is a leading European provider for text and data analytics. Our mission is to deliver text analytics as an easy-to-use utility to every device, enterprise, developer and consumer. We have a strong presence in the health sector, the pharmaceutical industry, patent analytics, social media and various other industries. We help our customers access and evaluate knowledge sources and automate information processes. By integrating in your business processes, we contribute to lowering your costs, boosting productivity, founded decision-making and better prognoses. Our excellent team is constantly working on new innovations to always give our customers from the pharmaceutical and automotive industries and the investment, finance and health services a decisive competitive edge. Averbis was founded in 2007 in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany.

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