

Development of the Blue Button Program for Health Data Sharing Between the Private and Public Sectors in Catalonia



Introduction

The management and sharing of health data is one of the biggest challenges in modern healthcare. Digitalization and interoperability are fundamental to improving efficiency and accessibility. In this context, the Blue Button project, promoted by ACES in collaboration with the TIC Salut i Social Foundation, will allow patients to securely and structurally access and share their medical data between the public and private healthcare systems in Catalonia.

This innovative project marks a milestone in the digital transformation of the Catalan healthcare sector, promoting more integrated and patient-centered medical care.

ACES: Driving Force Behind the Blue Button in Catalonia

Business Association

Founded in 1977, ACES is dedicated to defending, preserving, and representing the legitimate interests and rights of healthcare and social sector business owners in Catalonia, while maintaining dialogue with all key stakeholders in the country's healthcare sector.

Representation

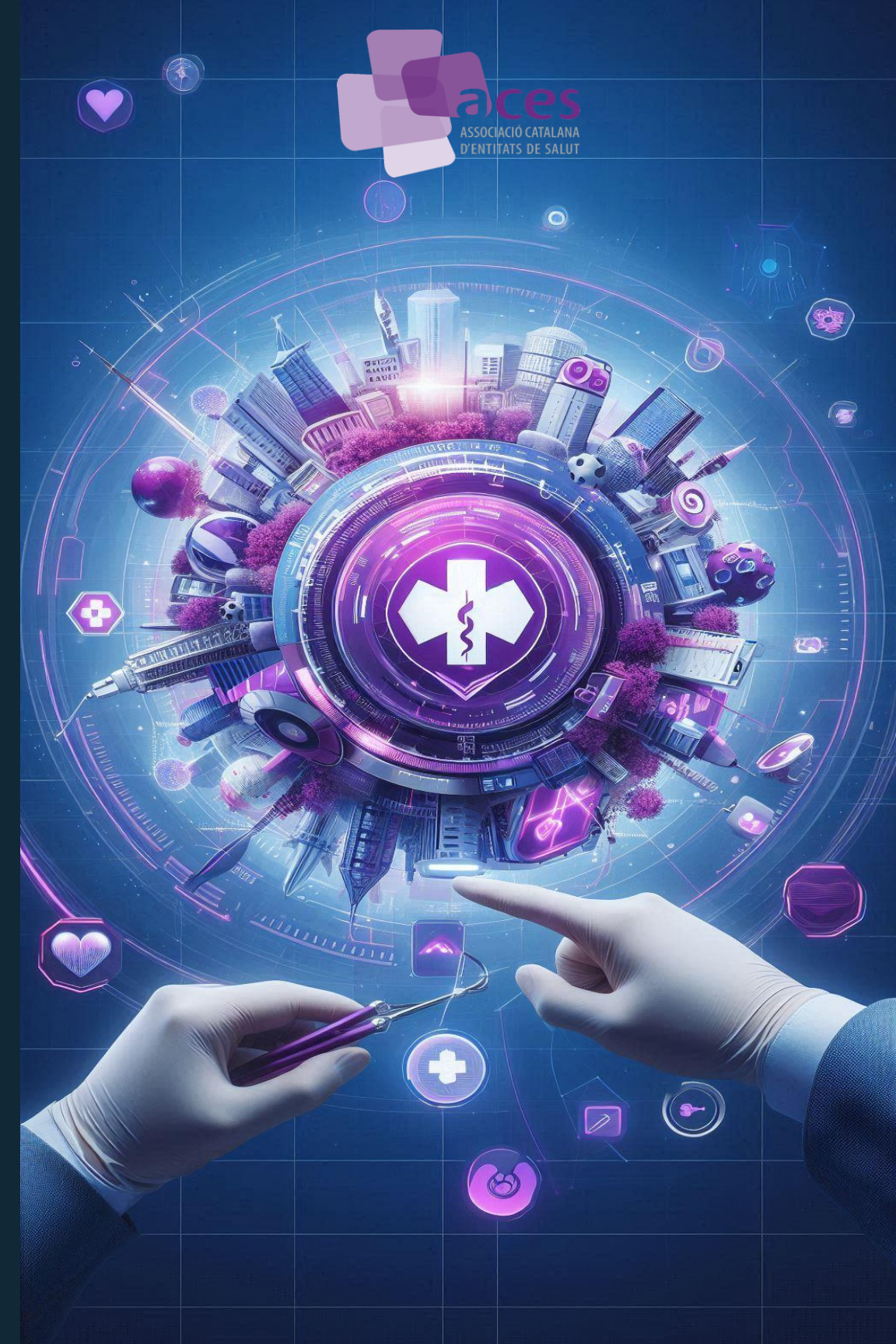
282 companies, 533 centers, Over 20.000 employees under the general system, more than 7.000 medical professionals

Coverage

17.67% of acute care hospital beds in private centers, 26.14% of intermediate and social care beds

Leadership

The most representative employers' association for private healthcare and social service providers in Catalonia.



TIC Salut i Social Foundation: A Key Player

The TIC Salut i Social Foundation plays a crucial role in Catalonia's digital health transformation, facilitating public-private collaboration and promoting the adoption of innovative technologies such as Blue Button.

Digital Innovation

An organization that promotes the integration of new technologies and digital innovation in health and social welfare in Catalonia.

Interoperability

Encouraging the secure exchange of information between health systems, ensuring data availability when needed.

Standards

Developing standards to ensure the correct use of ICT in the health and social sectors.

Education and Dissemination

Providing training and support to professionals to foster the proper use of new technologies in the health and social sectors.



Historical Context and Origin of Blue Button

1

2010: Origin in the U.S.

The Blue Button was created to enable war veterans to access their medical records in a structured manner from anywhere.

2

Collaborative Development

Involvement from war veterans, Medicare and Medicaid service centers, the Department of Defense, and the Markle Foundation.

3

Results of Collaboration

The Blue Button allows for an essential summary of patient health and medical care information for continuous patient care, ensuring health system interoperability.

4

International Expansion

The concept expanded to other countries, reaching Catalonia as an innovative initiative in the healthcare sector.

Objectives and Benefits of the Blue Button

Main Objectives

- Secure electronic download of clinical information
- Implementation of the IPS (International Patient Summary)
- Integration of the European standard for electronic health record exchange (EEHRxF)
- Facilitating interoperability between public and private systems

Expected Benefits

- Patient empowerment
- Improved healthcare quality
- Reduction of test duplication
- Increased treatment safety
- Overcoming language barriers

Impact

The Blue Button aims to transform healthcare in Catalonia by improving efficiency, security, and the patient experience while facilitating international collaboration and compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and European health data standards.

Proof of Concept and Functionalities

1. Successful Implementation

The proof of concept was successfully carried out at Clínica Girona and Clínica Bofill, demonstrating the feasibility of the Blue Button system in Catalonia's private sector.

2. Developed Functionalities

The system includes:

Personal data, contact information, allergies, regular medication, immunizations, active diagnoses, medical history, and past procedures.

3. Multilingual Support

The platform is currently available in Catalan and Spanish, ensuring accessibility for a wide range of patients and healthcare professionals. Future versions will support multiple languages.



Visualization of the proof of concept of





Current State of the Blue Button in Catalonia

Sector	Status	Characteristics
Public	Integrated into "La Meva Salut"	Allows patients to download summaries and hospital discharge reports
Private	Proof of concept completed, pilot test in progress	Implementation in 6 participating centers

In the public sector, the Blue Button is already integrated into the 'La Meva Salut' platform, allowing patients to download their summary and discharge reports in standardized XML format. The private sector is conducting a pilot test in six centers: Clínica Girona and Clínica Bofill (Girona, which also conducted the proof of concept), Clínica Sagrada Família (Barcelona), HM Delfos (Barcelona), Mi Nova Aliança (Lleida), and Viamed Monegal (Tarragona).



Impact on Medical Practice and Data Security

Improvements in Medical Practice

- Immediate access to medical records
- Better clinical decision-making
- Reduction of medical errors
- Optimized consultation times
- More precise diagnoses

Data Security and Protection

- Compliance with GDPR
- European security standards
- Patient control over their data
- Access traceability
- Protection of sensitive information

The Blue Button enhances medical efficiency and accuracy while ensuring patient data security and privacy, in line with strict regulatory requirements.

Future of the *Blue Button* in Catalonia



Information Expansion

Integration of medical imaging, lab results, and complete reports into the IPS.



Multiplatform Viewer

Development of an accessible viewer across multiple devices for user convenience.



Advanced Multilingual Support

Implementation of multilingual capabilities to facilitate international healthcare.

The future of the *Blue Button* in Catalonia promises a revolution in health data management, with continuous improvements that will expand its functionality and scope, solidifying Catalonia as a leader in digital healthcare innovation.



xSHARE Project and International Collaboration

1

European Funding

The xSHARE project, funded by the European Commission with €8M, involves 40 international partners, including FTSS and ACES.

2

Ambitious Objectives

Deploying Blue Button in 8 countries, including Catalonia, in both the public and private sectors.

Expanding IPS variables and developing common standards.

3

Quality Seal

Creation of an "Industry Label" as a quality seal for health interoperability solutions, awarded to entities adopting the Blue Button.

4

Global Impact

Facilitates cross-border healthcare and positions Catalonia as a leader in healthcare innovation.

THANK YOU