Health care personnel rely all the more on computerised and networked Health Care Information Systems (HISs) for carrying out their normal duties. This means that they become all the more dependable upon the quality of information provided to them by these systems.

Given the pervasive nature of security requirements for medical information systems, common specifications and standards are crucial, as their absence may present a major barrier to the advance of information-based processes and services throughout the healthcare sector.

Another point to note is that technical standards and technology may be designed to achieve a perfect technical solution to the problem of security of medical information, but the use and management of such methods and technology may not be acceptable from a professional or social perspective, may go against some human right or may not be complementary or supportive of some safety criteria.

The main objectives of the project are to:

- **Codify** existing and emerging standards for security and privacy in Health Care Information Systems.
- Identify gaps in existing and emerging standards thereby recommending additional standardisation work to appropriate bodies.
- Assess the applicability and technical feasibility of selected standards via field trials thereby providing input to standardisation bodies.
- Investigate the degree of compliance with these standards of European Health Care Institutions and HC Information Systems developers.
- Promote the awareness on the existence and usefulness of such standards among European Health Care Institutions and HC Information Systems developers.

The motto of the UoA R&D team, for this project, is:

"Information security is everyone’s responsibility"