

DICOM Correction Item

Correction Number	CP-152
Log Summary:	Clarification of meaning Type 2 for patient info and accession number
Type of Modification:	Name of Standard
Clarification	PS 3.5-1999
Rationale for Correction	
<p>Patient information (ID and Name) as well as the accession number are defined as Type 2 attributes. That means that they can be sent with a length of "0" when unknown. Receiving objects without proper identification creates serious issues for the receivers, i.e. images can not be found ("orphan images") and/or a radiologist cannot do his diagnosis because he cannot tie it to a proper accession number.</p> <p>Often, implementations are not even providing Type 2 attributes at all. The standard clarifies that Type 2 attributes are required unless unknown, i.e. in normal circumstances they should always be provided.</p>	
Sections of documents affected	
PS 3.5	
Correction wording:	
<p>Add note to PS 3.5 7.4.3: (definition of Type 2 Required Data Elements)</p> <p>Note: The intent of Type 2 Data Elements is to allow a zero length to be conveyed when the operator or application does not know its value or has a specific reason for not specifying its value. It is the intent that the device should support these Data Elements.</p>	