

# Utilization of UID in Healthcare

Indian Association for  
Medical Informatics  
(IAMI)

# Unique ID (UID)

- Issued by UIDAI
- Roll out in 12 – 18 months (July 2009)
- A unique and permanent identifier for every Indian
- Not a substitute for other identification numbers (e.g., Ration Card, PAN, Passport, Voter's Identity Card, etc.)

# Observations

- UID will reference personal and biometric identification information about the individual
- IAMl evaluated the appropriateness of using the UID as a Unique Health Identifier (UHID)
- These are the preliminary recommendations regarding the use of UID as UHID in India

# Current Scenario

- Different healthcare organizations use different identifiers for the same patient
- This makes it harder to
  - Share a patient's medical record (electronic or paper)
  - Creation of a horizontal medical record for the patient
- This impacts the continuity of care and leads to poorer health outcomes



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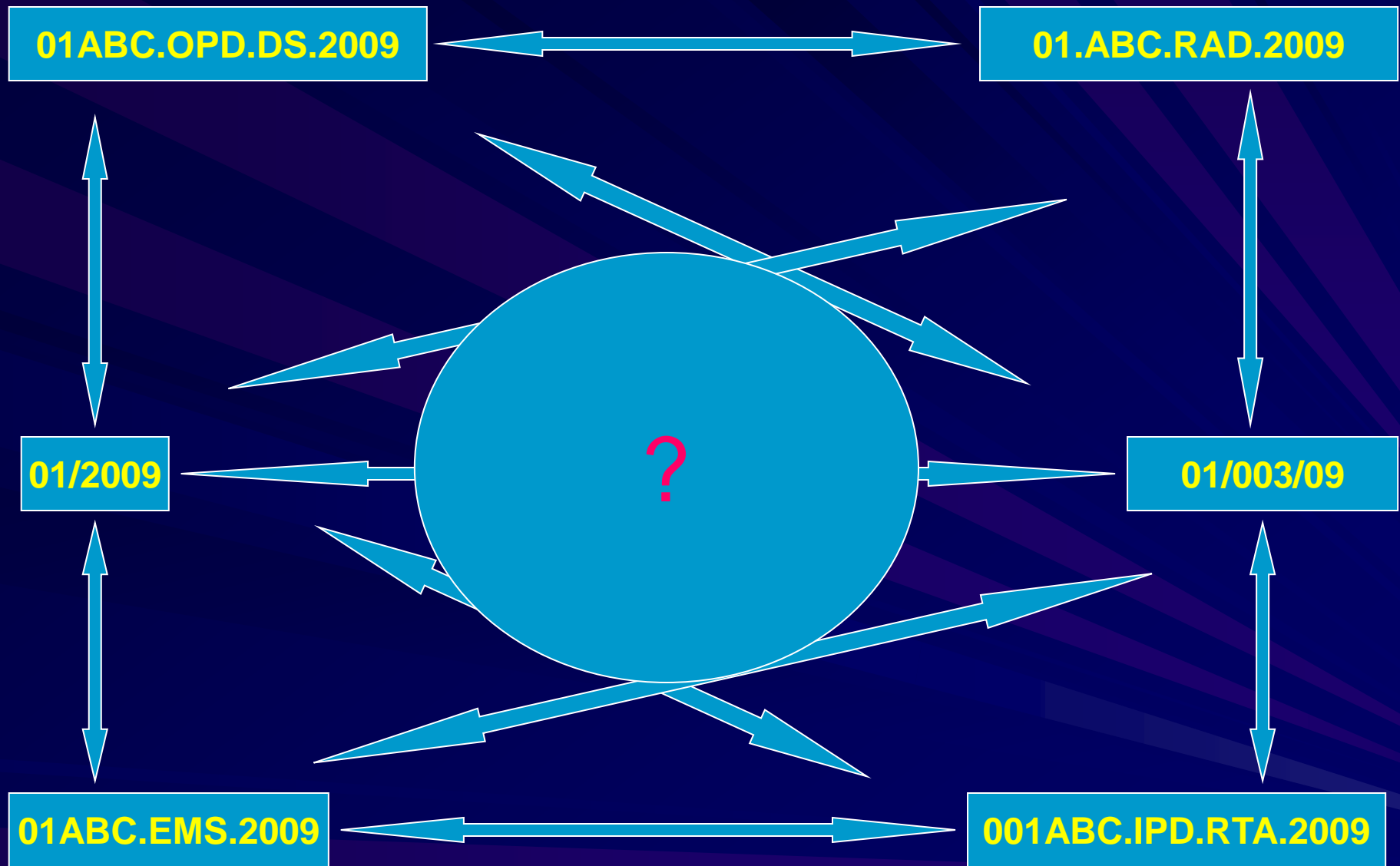
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# Problems with Multiple Identifiers

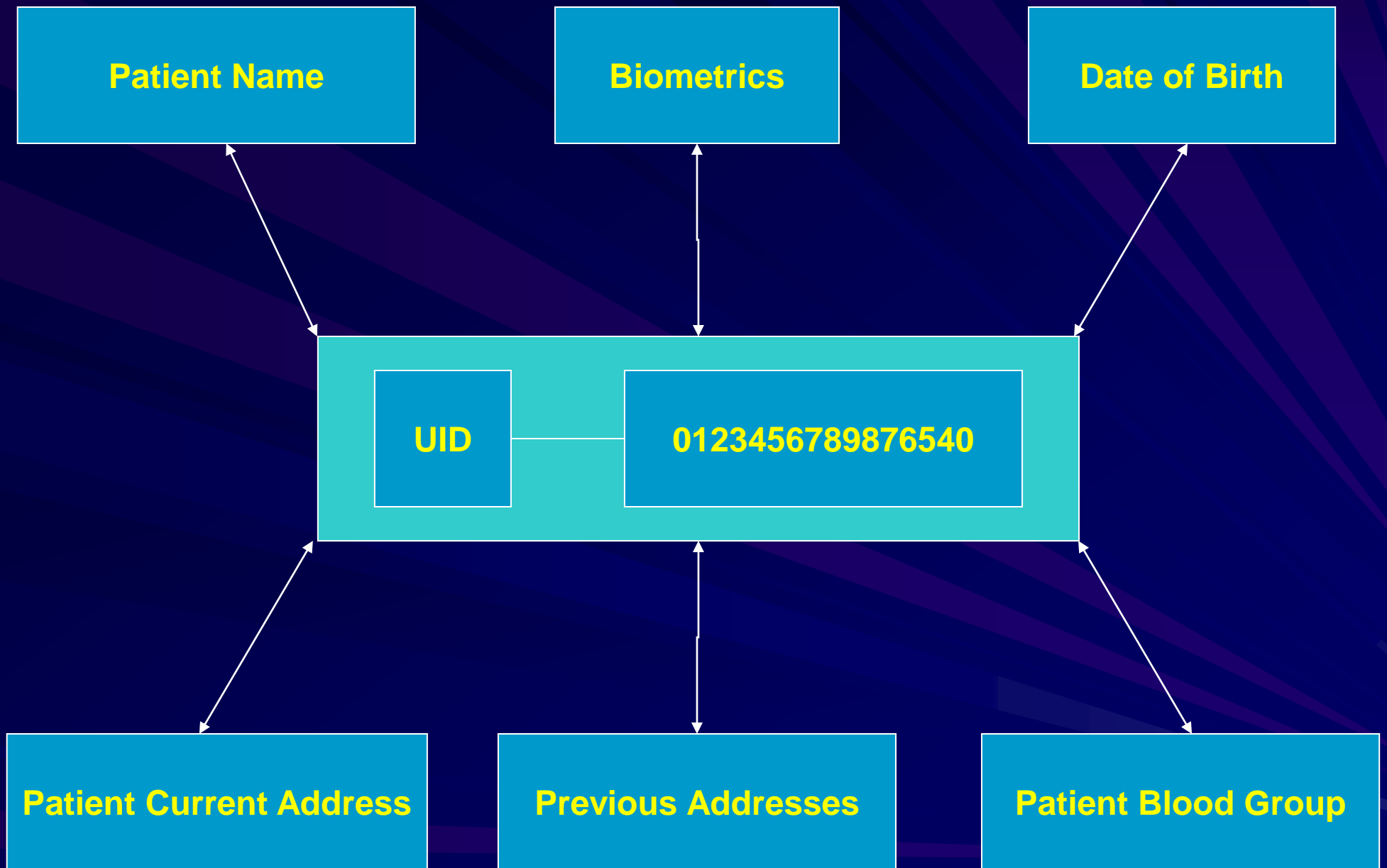
- Harder to share patients' medical records
- Difficult for a patient to manage the various identifiers
- Next to impossible to reconcile the data of patients
- True healthcare data interoperability cannot occur without identifiers that are recognized by the participating systems

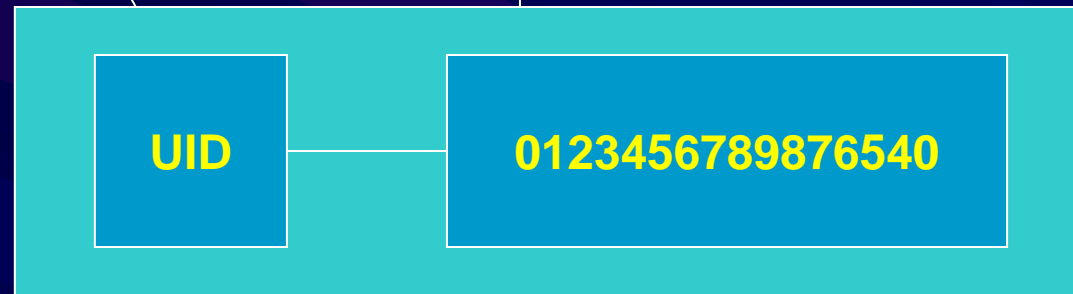


# UID as UHID

- A nationally recognizable unique identifier available for every individual
- Currently no such identifier is available
- Existence of such an identifier desirable
- Considering the scope of the UID, it is a natural choice for use as the UHID for all Indian residents







# Use of UID along with Another

- Timing of allotment is a major concern
- Most hospitals and healthcare organizations assign a MRN (medical record number) to their patients
- The first step is to ensure that the MRN is unique for each patient within a single entity
  - No patient gets multiple MRN
  - Same MRN is not assigned to multiple patients
- Associate each MRN with UID depending on its availability

# Use of UID with existing MRN

- UID must be added to a patient's record at the earliest possibility
- UID can be used to identify duplicate MRN for a patient and merge them
- MRN (or UID) can be used for internal use by various systems within a hospital/organization
- UID used for sharing data externally amongst various healthcare entities  
(hospitals/organizations/health departments)

# Use of both UID and MRN

- Use of an MRN internally by an organization eliminates dependency on an external identifier that may be unavailable or unusable
- Use of UID eliminates problems associated with data sharing
- UID helps addressing internal problems with MRN (e.g. merging duplicates)
- Use of UID greatly facilitates provision of care – the patient's record can be looked up using the UID even when the MRN is not available



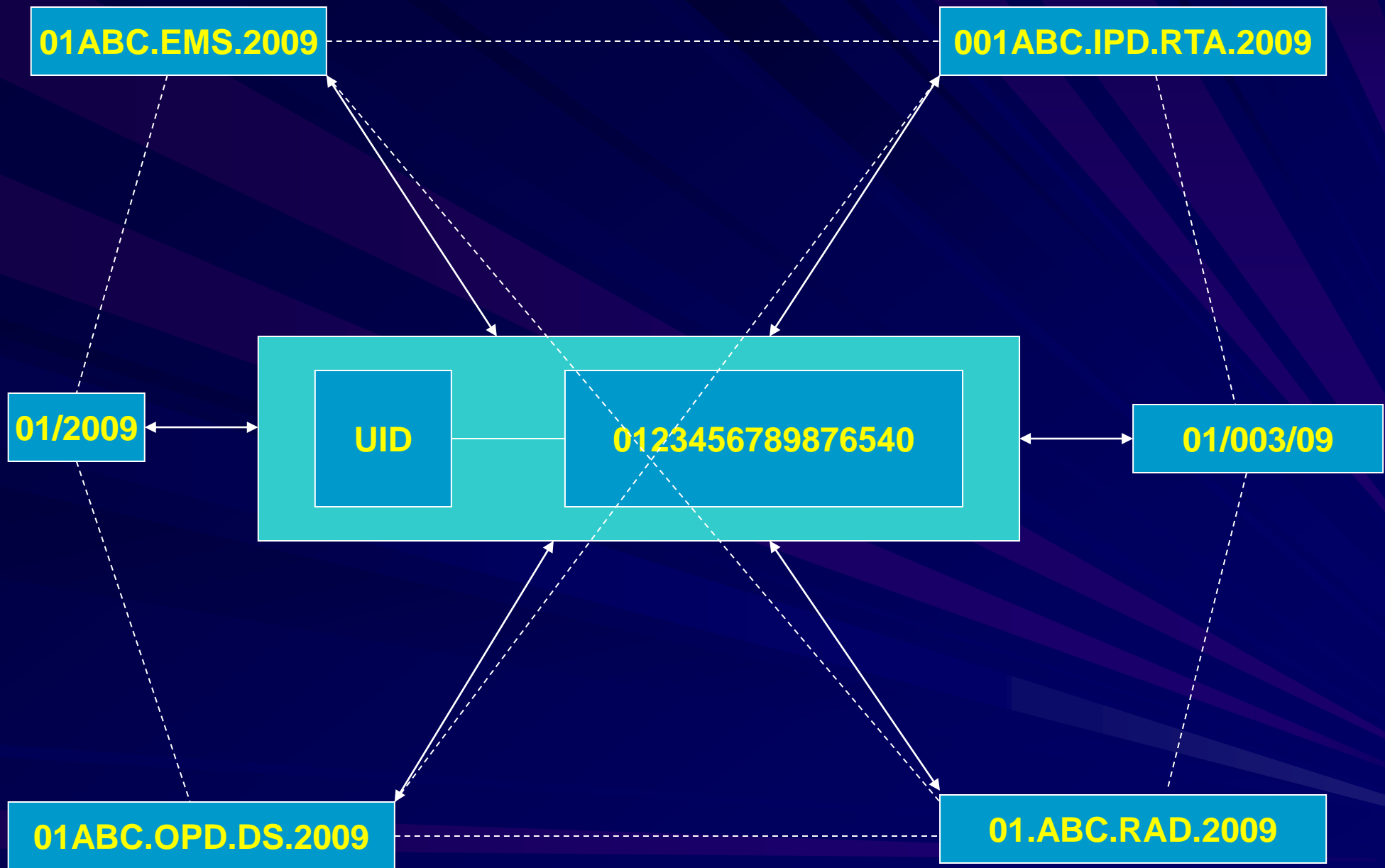


UID

0123456789876540







# Potential Issues

- Allotment
  - Time-lag
  - Procedures performed on the unborn child
- Ability to Remember & Recall
- The Unknown Unconscious Patient – a “John Doe” or “Jane Doe”
- Those related to Patient Privacy

# Benefits of a unique identifier in health care

- Allows compiling of data from various sources
- Leads to the creation of a lifelong health record providing information about all health events from womb till death
  - growth
  - nutrition
  - vaccinations
  - illnesses suffered
  - healthcare events

# Benefits for the patient

- One unique identifier allows various hospitals and providers to share information about a patient
- Reduces data duplication
- Avoids repetition of tests
- Improves the continuity of care
- Results in better health outcomes and cost savings overall

# Benefits for the population

- Unique ID in healthcare helps in
  - Accurate measurement of population health indicators (IMR, MMR, growth and nutrition, immunization, etc.)
  - Improved planning and delivery of healthcare services
- This results in improved health and improvement in the various health indicators

# Benefits for medical science and research

- Seamless exchange of medical data between organizations aids in
  - More accurate epidemiological and demographic studies, disease surveillance studies, better data analyses
  - Discovery of knowledge in clinical databases
  - Practice of evidence based medicine



# IAMI's Recommendation

- All providers should assign and manage unique MRN for their patients
- Use UID as the UHID
- Add UID to the patient's record at the earliest possibility
- Mandate the use of UID for all external data exchanges between organizations



**Thanks!**