

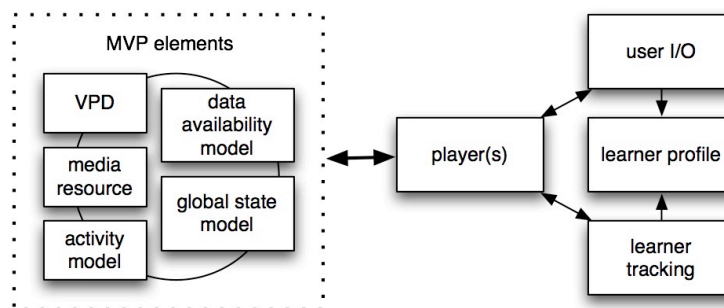
# THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DATA STANDARD FOR VIRTUAL PATIENTS

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**Summary:** Virtual patients are notoriously hard to author, adapt and exchange. Historically this has limited their uptake and utility, despite their being able to provide high quality learning opportunities. The MedBiquitous standards organisation has developed a data standard for virtual patients to help to address these problems.

**Details:** A virtual patient is “An interactive computer simulation of real-life clinical scenarios for the purpose of medical training, education, or assessment. Users may be learners, teachers, or examiners” (Ellaway, Candler et al. 2006). The MedBiquitous Virtual Patient (MVP) specification has been designed to be sufficiently abstract and adaptable so that it can accommodate a wide range of applications. The MVP consists of five data components (see figure) each of which can be accessed and assembled in a number of different ways. These components are rendered for use through different kinds of players, depending on the activity at hand and other local choices and requirements.



The five MVP components are:

- VPD: virtual patient data – the electronic patient record and other data
- MR: media resources – all supporting files including images and documents
- AM: activity model – options and rules as to what the user can (and cannot) do
- DAM: data availability model – groups of VPD and MR elements
- GSM: global state model – sequencing and presentation of activities

This presentation will describe the development and final format of the MVP (which is currently going through a full ANSI standards accreditation process), the development of a number of compliant authoring and player systems and the application of this emerging standard in a number of different healthcare education settings.

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Ellaway, R., Candler, C., Greene, P. and Smothers, V. (2006). An Architectural Model for MedBiquitous Virtual Patients. Baltimore, MD, MedBiquitous.