



12TH EHEALTH NETWORK 28 NOVEMBER 2017, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
COVER NOTE BY EHEALTH NETWORK SECRETARIAT

Agenda point 4: Patient access to health data and Telemedicine

Issue at stake

This agenda point covers two topics concerning patient access to health data and telemedicine. It provides a report on the EU state-of-play on telemedicine services and on patient access to eHealth data. These reports are for information. Both topics include recommendations for patient access to electronic health records and telemedicine, which are for discussion at this meeting.

Summary

EU state of play on telemedicine services and uptake recommendations

The report presents the state of play of the EU countries regarding both telemedicine and telecare services (covering both preventive and curative healthcare), and it provides recommendations towards a solid and sustainable development of telehealth in Europe. For the majority of countries telemedicine services are below 10% of total healthcare services, at the same time, this coverage is not uniform and the percentage of patients involved is still very low. The report concludes that several countries still do not have a national telemedicine strategy, nor a national structure responsible for and funding mechanisms to finance telemedicine development. It also points at the state of reimbursement mechanisms, technical domains, legal and security aspects, as well as cultural and change management aspects. The report specifies the barriers for telemedicine and telecare development.

The report suggests 10 recommendations based on the feedback of the member states and on the state of implementation of telemedicine services.

Patient access to Electronic Health Records and health data portability

The Final Report on EU state of play on patient access to eHealth data provides an overview of patient access to their Electronic Health Record (EHR) information in the EU. The report shows that there are several different approaches to patient access among the member states. Thus, it is not possible to rank countries or to find an obvious pattern emerged from the data. However, the conclusions point out that most policies around patient access to EHR information are being nationally organised. There is also a large variety of programs, pilots, projects and systems in place that provide patients with access to their EHR data – at both national, regional and local levels. Moreover, patients' ability to have control over their EHR information is embedded into the current system. On the other hand, there is a lack of available data by respondents regarding usage, benefits and disadvantages which suggests that actual usage patterns are not being examined and monitored in an ongoing basis. There is also no common

trend with regard to authenticating patients.

The final report will be followed by draft recommendations for patient access to electronic health records. These recommendations will be presented in a separate document to the eHealth Network for discussion and eventually for adoption in the 13th eHealth Network Meeting.

Format of procedure in the eHN

The Member State co-chair introduces the agenda point and gives the floor to the eHealth Network.

Members are invited to:

- Comment and decide for adoption of the recommendations mentioned in the report on the EU state of play on telemedicine services.
- Comment on the draft recommendations for patient access to electronic health records which will be taken into consideration in the final version for adoption in the 13th eHealth Network Meeting.