



15TH eHEALTH NETWORK 11-12 JUNE 2019, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

COVER NOTE BY eHEALTH NETWORK SECRETARIAT

Topic 1.3. Transition from unplanned to planned care. Revision of Patient Summary guidelines

Issue at stake

The aim of this agenda point is for eHealth Network to:

- Discuss and take a decision with regard to broadening the scope of eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure to also include planned care, along with unplanned care, for patient summary.
- Give mandate to eHAction to update the policy part of the eHealth Network Guideline on the electronic exchange of health data under Cross-Border Directive 2011/24/EU for Patient Summary for unscheduled care, regarding the broadening the scope of the cross border exchange to both unplanned and planned care.

Summary

Free movement of persons is one of the fundamental rights of EU citizens. This right is used to a large extent and, in order to implement it, citizens need to be able to ensure the portability of their data, be it contributions to unemployment benefits or pensions, medical insurance or medical history. In 2017, there were 17 million EU citizens living in an EU Member State other than their country of citizenship and 1.4 million cross-border workers are active in the EU. Moreover, 236.2 million European Health Insurance Cards are in circulation. Both Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems and the Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare allow for cross border healthcare and reimbursements, both in case of planned and unplanned care. Moreover, the Directive 2011/24, which offers the legal basis for the work of the eHealth Network on Digital Service Infrastructure, covers in practice mainly scheduled care situations.

For the time being, in the case of patient summaries, the eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure has as primary aim unplanned care situations, whereby a citizen travels abroad, goes to emergency and the doctor in this country has an access to his/her essential medical history, thus avoiding wrong medication, possible allergies etc. The guidelines for ePrescriptions are neutral from this point of view.

However, should the eHealth Network decide to extend the exchange of information towards fuller electronic health records (including images, image reports, laboratory tests and discharge letters), this would offer additional opportunities for Member States and healthcare systems and would allow to avoid unnecessary tests, thus reducing the costs. The implementation of these uses cases would not only concern unscheduled, but also scheduled care. This would not only be useful for the cross-border workers, for EU citizens living in another EU member states, but also for tourists, especially when they

are patients with a complex medical history.

The eHealth DSI Member States Expert Group discussed this aspect on 17 May and suggested that the wording of the current guidelines and specifications could be neutral with regard to planned and unplanned care, so not to hinder any current use and possible additional cases or developments that stem from and/or support planned care.

Format of procedure in the eHealth Network meeting

- The Member State co-chair introduces the agenda topic and invites the eHMSEG co-chair to present the position of the Group expressed on 17 May.
- The Member States co-chair opens the floor for discussions.
- Task eHAction and eHMSEG to analyse the implications and adjust the guidelines, where relevant.