

# **1. Patient Information Notice regarding Cross-Border transfer of Personal Health Data**

## **CYPRUS**

*The following information is provided to fulfil the requirement of the EU General Data Protection Regulation to inform citizens about the processing of their personal data.*

### **1. What is the eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure?**

The eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure (eHDSI) is a system that provides European citizens with a safe and easy way to transfer their medical data cross-border by electronic means if they need treatment abroad. The electronic data is provided to health professionals in countries across the European Union (EU) <sup>1</sup> where the citizen is being treated. The personal data is transferred and stored in accordance with the law of the country of treatment.

### **2. The categories of your personal health data concerned**

The Patient Summary is a basic medical dataset that is transferred for the purpose of receiving treatment in another country. It includes important patient data such as allergies, current medication, previous illnesses and surgeries, that is necessary to treat the patient properly abroad.

Your information is available for inclusion in your Patient Summary insofar as the personal data is already recorded in electronic form in Cyprus via Nicosia and Famagusta General Hospitals.

### **3. What is the legal basis for the use of your personal data?**

The eHDSI services will become available for you only upon your explicit consent. Although emergency situations may justify the use of your data for your treatment without consent, if you don't give explicit consent before travelling, your data will not be available through the eHDSI system when you are in another country, not even in case of emergency. When you are abroad in an actual care situation, your Patient Summary data will be recorded in the country of treatment in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the laws of that country and the practices of the particular healthcare institution.

### **4. What is the purpose of processing?**

Your medical data will only be used for your personal treatment.

However, in some countries your personal data may also, under certain conditions, be used for other purposes prescribed by law, such as monitoring and research in order to improve the quality of public health. For these secondary purposes, the participating countries have committed to put in place appropriate technical and organisational safeguards, such as de-identification of personal data where necessary. In Cyprus, the data collected for inclusion in your Patient Summary will not be used

for secondary purposes, other than for statistical purposes after it has been completely anonymised. Information about the purposes of such further processing according to the laws of various countries is available at the eHDSI website.

## **5. Who processes and has access to this data?**

Your Patient Summary data will be accessible only by authorised and identifiable health professionals involved in your treatment, under professional secrecy, in the country of treatment. Each country of treatment participating in the eHDSI system has undertaken to ensure that the participating health professionals and healthcare providers on their territory have adequate information and training about their duties. Please refer to the eHDSI website for details of the participating countries. The Patient Summary data will be transferred through a secure gateway provided by the eHealth National Contact Point designated by each country.

## **6. Where and how long is the personal data stored?**

The Patient Summary data may be stored in information systems of health institutions both in Cyprus and in the country of treatment. The data shall be stored for no longer than is necessary for the purpose for which your personal data is processed. In the case of persons domiciled in Cyprus, the storage period of medical records in Cyprus is currently for the lifetime of the patient and ten years thereafter, while in the case of other patients, such as persons visiting from other countries, the storage period is ten years. The storage period in other participating countries may vary. Information about the storage periods is available on the eHDSI website.

Longer storage periods may only be used for archiving and scientific or historical research where particular privacy safeguards are in place (such as anonymisation).

## **7. Your access rights**

If you consent for your Patient Summary data to be processed by the eHDSI system, you can have access to it by making a request either to the Information Management Unit of the Ministry for Health ([ncpeH@moh.gov.cy](mailto:ncpeH@moh.gov.cy)) or to the National eHealth Authority.

You have the right to:

- a) rectify any inaccurate data in your Patient Summary data, according to Article 16 of the GDPR.
- b) obtain the erasure of your Patient Summary data, according to Article 17 of the GDPR.
- c) object to the processing of your Patient Summary data on grounds relating to your particular situation, according to Article 21 of the GDPR.

You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time.

If you do not consent for your personal data to be processed by the eHDSI system, your data will not be available for you through this system when you are in another country, not even in case of emergency.

Finally, you have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority either in Cyprus or in the country of treatment, depending on the factual situation.

**Contact details**

**Data controller**

**Andreas Christodoulou**

**DPO National eHealth Authority**

**1 Prodromou & Chilonos Street 17**

**1448 Nicosia, Cyprus**

**Call Center: +357 22 605300/301**

**Contact details**

**Data processor**

**Irene Georgiou**

**DPO Ministry of Health**

**1 Prodromou & Chilonos Street 17**

**1448 Nicosia, Cyprus**

**Call Center: +357 22 605300/301**

**Email: ncpeH@moh.gov.cy**

**URL:**

**[https://www.moh.gov.cy/moh/cbh/cbh.nsf/index\\_gr/index\\_gr?OpenDocument](https://www.moh.gov.cy/moh/cbh/cbh.nsf/index_gr/index_gr?OpenDocument)**

**Contact details**

**Supervisory authority in Cyprus**

**1, Iasonos str.**

**1082 Nicosia**

**P.O.Box 23378, 1682 Nicosia**

**Telephone: +357 22818456**

**Fax: +357 22304565**

**Email: commissioner@dataprotection.gov.cy**

## 2. Patient Consent (EN)

This document provides information on the purpose of cross-border healthcare as well as a statement of consent for the storage, use and exchange of individual medical and personal data in the National Contact Point of Cyprus [NCP]). The two services are in English language.

**Introduction:** The National eHealth Authority and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Cyprus are members of the European eHealth Network [eHN]. The Cross-border healthcare is a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union. To implement it, some of the Member States have decided to create an online joint platform between them, with the aim of exchanging agreed common information by individuals, in the form of:

- **Patient Summary [PS]**
- **Electronic Prescription [eP]**

**Procedure:** the joint platform will be developed by the European e-Health Network. Each member country developed its own "Electronic National Contact Point (eNCP)". This is interconnected with the corresponding National Contact Points in other European countries. Through them, a brief health history and e-prescription will be sent and received only for people who need urgent health care in another EU country. Interconnection will take place only with the consent of the individual.

**Benefits:** The participant will be provided with high quality cross-border healthcare as follows:

- Providing secure access to your data when there is a need for cross-border healthcare (except Cyprus),
- Reducing the incidence of medical errors by providing quick and secure access to patient health information anywhere,
- Providing important information to medical staff in emergencies, reducing the repetition of diagnostic procedures and reducing the valuable time,
- Secure identification of both the individuals and the health care providers.

**Personal Data Protection:** The National Contact Point of Cyprus coordinates and manages by the National eHealth Authority, the Ministry of Health, together with the University of Cyprus. The "National Contact Point of Cyprus" is located within Cyprus and the data stored is in an encrypted form. Only authorized personnel have access to data. The exchange of data within the National Contact Points of EU countries is achieved via a secure network (TESTA).

**Confidentiality:** The data will not be available to third parties (for example, insurance companies). The statistical processing of participants' data is anonymous and the identification of the individual is impossible.

**Participation:** It is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time, without needing to explain the reason. **Non-participation:** For the purpose of cross-border healthcare, you will not be able to have an electronic health history or prescription in electronic

form. **Right to withdraw consent:** Tell your doctor or, alternatively, the National Contact Point of Cross-border Healthcare (see below). This will cause your data to no longer be stored and deleted from the database on request.

**Information:** National Contact Point eHealth Cyprus (below).

**Complaints:** You have the right to submit them to the following organization:

**National eHealth Authority**

**1 Prodromou & Chilonos Street 17**

**1448 Nicosia, Cyprus**

**Call Center: +357 22 605 300/301**

or

**Ministry of Health**

**1 Prodromou & Chilonos Street 17**

**1448 Nicosia, Cyprus**

**Call Center: +357 22 605 300/301**

**Email: [ncpeH@moh.gov.cy](mailto:ncpeH@moh.gov.cy)**

**URL: <https://www.moh.gov.cy/>**

**Thank you!**

### 3. Patient Consent (EN)

I have read and understand the above, regarding the Cyprus National Contact Point database and the procedure followed, benefits, protection of my personal data, confidentiality, the right to participate or not to participate or to withdraw my consent.

Therefore, I agree that my medical and personal data should be available for cross-border healthcare at the "National Contact Point of Cyprus" until I make a statement withdrawing my consent. I also consent to the processing and storage of my data until I decide otherwise.

An adult applying for cross-border healthcare:

(typing your surname and your name is considered to be your consent)

Surname	.....	Name	.....
Signature		Date	.....

An underage person requires the consent of either parent or parent

(typing your surname and your name is considered to be your consent)

Parent Surname (Father)	.....	Parent Name (Father)	.....
Signature		Date	.....

Parent Surname (Mother)	.....	Parent Name (Mother)	.....
Signature		Date	.....