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UK: 'The Power of Information: Putting us all in control of the health and care information we need'

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The focus is on empowering patients to take more control of their own health through better access to information, including access to their own health records (starting with GP records); using technology to provide more convenient ways for people to access services - such as booking appointments with their GP online, ordering repeat prescriptions online etc; promoting transparency so that a wide range of quality information is available to enable people to make fully informed choices about the healthcare they receive; moving away from a "provide all" national IT programme to a "connect all" approach based on consistent national standards for information collection and systems to ensure they are interoperable; promoting the importance of informatics skills and capability for all staff groups in the service.

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[1] <http://www.informationstrategy.dh.gov.uk/>

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/health/policy

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