eHealth: connecting health systems in Europe

OUR CHALLENGES

- Increasing pressures and demands on European healthcare systems call for an innovative way of organizing and managing the delivery of health services.
- Changes in the national health systems require a more efficient service organization.
- Patient safety depends on the integration of medical technologies and tools.
- Top-down formalities and guidelines are essential to patient care.
- Starting and maintaining a distribution of health professionals.
- Health inequalities and inequities in access to healthcare.
- Aging society.
- Increased prevalence of chronic diseases.
- Demand for more accessible and effective healthcare.
- Financial and political pressure on health systems.

The use of digital applications and solutions is becoming increasingly important in modern healthcare systems, providing opportunities to tackle some of the challenges our society faces.

OUR VISION

- eHealth could be a part of the solution if we take advantage of the new technologies that can raise our health services.
- Information and Communication Technologies could revolutionize healthcare systems.

The EU will be active in the role of a facilitator at European level, fostering cross-border health services and supporting Member States to address the need to eHealth solutions across all stages of healthcare.

EXPECTED BENEFITS

- Improved patient experience.
- Greater access to patient data for patients and healthcare professionals.
- Improved health outcomes for patients.
- Effective treatment in a wider area.

EU STRATEGY

- The Digital Single Market Strategy aims to open up digital opportunities for people and businesses and eliminate obstacles to an EU-wide Digital Single Market.
- The EU health strategy refers to eHealth as an enabling technology of a new era of digital access.
- The EU health strategy is based on the Digital Single Market, but requiring improved interoperability and standardization of eHealth solutions.

INNOVATIVE

- We provide a roadmap for eHealth systems by establishing a framework for interoperability strategies.
- An interoperability strategy serves as a guiding principle for establishing a digital health infrastructure.

EU ACTION

- The European Commission is committed to ensuring that interoperability can be achieved in the real world.
- The health sector plays a key role in enabling the interoperability of eHealth systems.

EFFECTIVENESS

- The EU health strategy is focused on ensuring that the right solutions are in place.
- The EU health strategy is designed to foster the coordination of eHealth systems.

RESULT OF EU ACTION

- Patients will have improved access to eHealth services.
- The interoperability of eHealth systems will improve.
- The cost of eHealth services will be reduced.
- The health systems will be more efficient and effective.

Further information on the European Commission’s initiatives can be found at the following link:

http://www.healthcommission.eu