

Catalan app's accreditation model - Use Case

Framework: The AppSalut website and the Digital Health Platform

In 2015, the Catalan Government approved the *Catalan Master Plan on Mhealth* with the aim of bringing health and social assistance closer to citizens and advancing towards a more integrated care process through the use of mobile technologies. Within this framework, the *AppSalut Website* (<https://appsalut.gencat.cat/>) was created, conceived as a showroom of those health and social care-oriented apps that have successfully passed an accreditation process created by the Foundation TicSalut.¹

All apps showcased in the AppSalut website can be recommended by any health and social care public sector professional to her/his final users (patients) in order to help manage his or her condition and allowing an exchange of data between the patient and public system professionals.

The process is supported by the *Digital Health Platform (DHP)*, acting as a repository of all mobility data (clinical and non-clinical) generated by the apps included in the AppSalut website. The DHP is equipped with two viewers, one addressed to final users and another one aimed at professionals. These viewers show on a single screen and, in an aggregated, organized and categorized form, all the data generated by a user and stored in the DHP, regardless of the app that has generated the data. Should the professional consider that the data stored in the DHP is relevant, she/he can integrate it directly to the patient's clinical history.

The accreditation process from the developer point of view

Any developer who has developed a health and/or social welfare-related app may propose its inclusion in the AppSalut website. To do this, she/he must first consult the AppSalut website "Developer Area", where she/he will find all documents related to the accreditation process, information on the levels of demand (risk levels) defining the accreditation criteria and the manual for developers. Moreover, when the app can collect the patient's data and send it to the professionals through the DHP, the developer must integrate SDK to her/his app (the SDK and the required certificates are also published in the "Developer Area").

Any developer must follow a registration process in order to access the private area where the new app accreditation process will start. To register, the developer must complete and send the registration form provided by TicSalut Foundation mHealth.cat Office. Following the validation of this form, the developer will receive an email with a non-transferable password allowing access to her/his private area of the AppSalut website.

Once a developer has accessed her/his private area, a "New App" button will appear. By clicking this button, the developer will start the accreditation process. To start the process, the developer must fill in the form provided for that purpose and that contains questions related to both technical and functional aspects of the app, as well as about the standards used for coding the variables recorded by the app. Having successfully completed the entire form, the developer must send it to the mHealth.cat Office, which will proceed to review the new application request.

¹ For a more detailed description of the accreditation process, please visit the AppSalut website (www.appsalut.gencat.cat)

At this stage, the mHealth.cat Office will review and conduct the initial validation of the app, before proceeding to its classification in one of the 3 possible levels of demand.

Within a period of a few days, the developer will receive a notification informing her/him about the level of demand in which the app has been classified and the costs associated to the accreditation process. The price of the accreditation process will be based on the level of demand rated for the new app and its volume (number of screens and data collection).

The developer can make the payment electronically by accessing her/his private space in the AppSalut website. Only after the payment has been made will the next step of the accreditation process start (the process will be put in standby until payment is confirmed).

Approximately one month after the payment is made the developer will be informed about the outcome of the accreditation process. If the accreditation process from the mHealth.cat Office is favourable, the developer receives a report with information related to the rating of the new app and confirmation of its inclusion in the AppSalut website. In case the new app fails to pass the accreditation process, a non-conformity report will be sent to the developer detailing the reasons why the app does not meet the criteria required for accreditation.

