eHealth in Europe: Empowering Patients and Offering Better Connected Healthcare Services

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Short notes by Mari Murel, EPSO

Improving the eHealth Experience at EU Level
• Discuss the eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 and Initiatives to Increase Legal Clarity
• Understand the Legal Framework for eHealth
• Consider how to Improve Interoperability to Improve Healthcare in Europe

• Share Experience on Lessons Learnt from epSOS

Frank Cunningham

International Policy Officer, DG CONNECT, European Commission

- ✓ eHealth interoperability framework proposed 2015 by European Commission;
- ✓ working paper on legal issues in telemedicine;
- ✓ Green paper on legal framework applicable to health and wellbeing Apps;
- ✓ eHealth action plan: clinical practical guidelines for telemedicine, emphasis on nurses and social care workers;
- ✓ Promoting innovation for (among others) better health and care, Transparency and empowerment;
- ✓ Development of internationally recognised and utilised interoperability standards for EHRs (electronic health records);
- ✓ mHealth is one of the main ways eHealth will be taken in use among health systems.

Fredrik Lindén

Former epSOS Project Coordinator, CGI Health Industry Lead, SALAR

- ✓ EpSOS 3 year project is finished, open source;
- ✓ Operational pilots in 15 nations;
- ✓ Includes recommendations also on policy and strategy;
- ✓ Very low impact on national policies at the beginning;
- ✓ Problems with unifying regional authorities via national contact point;
- ✓ Legal framework was big struggle point (example Italy);
- ✓ Lot of tools available –issue and challenge; Lot of asthma, diabetes, home care etc tools

✓ He thinks that the architectural and technical base is ready to be used and only needs to be extended to local language applications.

■ The Challenges of Telemedicine in Europe
• Defining Telemedicine and its Benefits
• Telemedicine and Demographics: Targeting Remote Areas and the Ageing Population
• Discuss Solutions to Facilitate the Setting up of Telemedicine Across Europe
• Review Recommendations for Future Actions

Frederic Lievens

International Coordinator, International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth (ISfTeH)

✓ Teleconsult pilots has shown that 60% cases can be resolved without meeting GP physically. It is good way to avoid secondary people to get sick through contagious patients.

✓ There is accreditation program for online consulting services;

✓ Example from states: Teledermatology reduced waiting list 2000 to 50 (San Francisco);

✓ Telecardiology etc;

✓ They have worked out Code of practice for telehealth services;

✓ Main aim– sharing knowledge.

✓ Most advantage countries in telemedicine: US, countries with long distance btw regions (Norway), China and India have shown vast progress recently;

✓ EU is missing own medical protocol relating telemedicine;

✓ Belgium has 'Kenniscetrum';

✓ Not to focus on research per se, but to integration;

■ Promoting Digital Health Literacy and Educating Users
• Raising Awareness Among Professionals and Patients
• Promoting Better acceptance of ICT in Healthcare: Training and Skills for Professionals
• Providing User-Friendly Solutions for Both Patients and Professionals
• Evaluate the Palante Projects

Henriette Hansen

Project Manager, South Denmark European Office (Region Syddanmark)

✓ In Denmark it is clear who has responsibility;

✓ Their approach is to *"Keeping people in their own lives as long as possible"*;

✓ Life Long Living concert

✓ Help to self-help;

✓ Too much technology can create passivity;

✓ MAST –Model for assessment of Telemedicine.

Sasha Marschang

Policy Manager for Health Systems, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

- ✓ mHealth (mobile apps) – question who is providing the info?
- ✓ Health literacy?
- ✓ Ens4care.eu ; ENS4Care: Evidence Based Guidelines for Nurses and Social Care Workers for the deployment of eHealth services;
- ✓ Palante project ('PAtients Leading and mANaging their healThcare through EHealth') project focuses on the implementation, scaling up and optimisation of 7 demonstration pilots based on the concept of secure and user friendly online access by citizens to their medical and health data.

The mHealth Revolution: Empowering Patients to Better Manage their Health
• Discus Potential Issues and Barriers to mHealth Development: Data Protection,
Trust and Lack of Awareness
• Improving Disease Prevention Through Smart Apps
• eHealth Monitoring: Patient Care for their Own Health
• Evaluate Insights from Innovative Projects

Prof. Dr. Stefaan Callens

Lawyer Brussels bar (Callens law firm); professor Health Law at the KU Leuven

- ✓ Different health care systems are diminishing
- ✓ International health care actors!
- ✓ We need legal framework of EU bases
- ✓ Overview of existing legal framework (slides)
- ✓ "we have to review our health systems"
- ✓ Applicable law in cross border telemedicines (slide) –contradiction with "we only reimburse when physically present".
- ✓ Role of data centre?
- ✓ We should expect soon some legal solution from EU
- ✓ There is eHealth network in EU (meets 2 x per year) to exchange knowledge between member states
- ✓ Ce-mark notification
- ✓ Domain prevention
- ✓ Differences between apps – not all are registered as 'health device'
- ✓ Apps must be notified and evaluated medically
- ✓ Member states do not want EU regulated notification, they want to keep it regional
- ✓ Health monitoring have to be notified, but producers do not want it and use it under 'umbrella' of non-medical device, but in reality it is being used as health device.