EU Health Data Space: access to your health data across the EU

The EU takes action to ensure better access to health data for citizens, health professionals and researchers across borders.

In April 2024, the European Parliament approved a proposal for establishing a European Health Data Space, which aims to improve the use of health data for research, innovation and policymaking. At the same time, Europeans should have more control over the use of their own health data.

Benefits for citizens
EU citizens will be able to access their health data in electronic form immediately and without any costs. Health data - such as patient summaries, electronic prescriptions, laboratory results and discharge reports - will be available in a common European format that can be shared with health professionals within the patient’s country or cross-border.

In this way, people will not have to worry about having access to health services when travelling within the EU.

**Further information**
Find out more about EU measures for improving public health

**Security and privacy issues**
While researchers and public institutions will be able to use some health data, the rules include strong data protection safeguards. No personal information will be shared. Patients will have a say on how their data is used or accessed and will be able to add information, rectify wrong data, restrict access to others and obtain information on how their data are used and for which purposes.

Some countries may add stricter rules for accessing sensitive data.

**Benefits for health professionals and researchers**

The new rules provide for the secure use of health data for better healthcare, research, and policymaking.

Since there will be a common European format, health professionals will have faster access to a patient’s health records, even if the patient is from another EU country. Better access and exchange of health data will result in faster and cheaper administrative procedures.

Researchers will have better, faster, cheaper and more effective access to health data of higher quality. This will enable them to improve treatments.
Nearly €11 billion

Expected savings in the EU in the next ten years as a result of better access, exchange and use of health data.

EU countries' obligations

All EU countries should establish national health data access services, based on the MyHealth@EU platform. National market surveillance authorities will safeguard people’s rights.

Legislative process

The Commission put forward a proposal for a European Health Data Space in May 2022. Parliament and Council negotiators reached an agreement on the text of the legislation in March 2024. MEPs approved the agreement in April 2024.

After getting officially approved by both Parliament and Council, the regulation enters into force 20 days after its publication.

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European Health Data Space

Briefing (April 2024)
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