

E-SOCIAL SECURITY: ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE ESIP Conference 2018

Scoping paper

Workshop 5: Digital transformation of health and care

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Europe's health systems face numerous challenges. Ageing, multi-morbidity, health workforce shortages, the rising burden of chronic and non-communicable diseases and increasingly cost-intensive therapies are putting pressure on quality, efficiency, equity, affordability and accessibility of health care. Throughout the European Union public expenditure on health, both as a share of GDP and in per capita terms, has risen markedly over the past years.

Digital transformation is often hailed as a potential remedy and offers new possibilities in delivering better health outcomes and organising care. Although much of the digitalisation process has yet to take place, it is expected to affect the whole chain of health care delivery including health promotion, prevention, primary care, specialised care and long-term care as well as self-care. The healthcare system of the future is supposed to transform dramatically, with a fundamental shift from diagnosis and treatment to prevention and (self-)management in a new environment of patient-centred healthcare.

The promises of greater efficiency raise hopes among all stakeholders, but also create fear as to its complexity and impact on privacy.

Against this backdrop, the workshop will try to develop a common understanding of the extent and impact of digitalisation in the area of health with a particular focus on potential implications for social health insurance systems in Europe.

At the beginning, participants will be given a brief overview of the ongoing digitalisation of the health sector, followed by a summary of the current state of play at EU-level, from the first European action plans on eHealth to the recently published Commission communication on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market and the upcoming initiative for a European health record exchange format.

After this brief introduction, participants will be asked to discuss in an interactive session **how digitalisation can be steered into the right direction in order to provide added value and improve health system performance and the quality of health care.**

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Bearing in mind the plethora of sometimes conflicting interests between different health stakeholders, we will try to analyse relevant dimensions in order to assess digital health solutions. We will dive into the question of **who should be the driver of transformation** and **which kind of institutional safeguards are needed** in order to address existing concerns. And finally, we will reflect on **which steps need to be taken at European level** and **which areas are better dealt with at national or even regional level**.

