

## **THE EUROPEAN ELECTRONICAL EXCHANGE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY DATA**

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At a time when the European Union is elaborating texts on the liberalisation of services, including health-related services, what controls exist at the international level with regard to the legality of health care and social security data exchanges? Which authorities currently guarantee the protection of the privacy and security of the exchange of health and social security data?

Globalisation in fact cannot result in the free movement of health data resulting in commercial trade, for the risk that rights well protected in one country are jeopardised after being abused in another becomes greater each day.

Even in the context of pro-active political agendas to regain control of the rising costs of social security and public health services, the exchange of e-health data needs appropriate legal protection and an optimised exchange of protected data through secure electronic networks.

The rules governing the protection of private data within these exchanges are a matter of public concern and have a direct impact on consumers' protection and the rights of patients. The European Union is developing a set of rules to ensure this protection as well as governing the exchange of data per se.

Access to and quality of health and social security data is a major issue that needs adequate technological solutions, records management, liability rules, guidelines for best practice data collection and notification of privacy protection malpractice procedures.

The European data protection regulation allows integrating the increasing complexity of the European health and social security system in the context of efforts to rationalise health and social security data exchanges.