



## CASE STUDY DENMARK

Digital-first is business as usual



### Strengths

Ranked #2 in eHealth maturity by the EU Digital Decade study, data and digital is firmly embedded in the Danish health system, enabled by high levels of trust among members of the public and confidence in using technology such as the national patient portal sundhed.dk where patients can see their data and manage their care, all connected to their Central Person Register number as a unique identifier enabling linkage across data sources and for research.



### Challenges

- Some data is still not available to patients in the portal due to ongoing conversations about patient confidentiality - with the entire GP record expected to be made available by 2026.
- Researchers or others wanting access to data have to apply separately to each individual data controller.
- Whilst there is some data sharing with providers of elderly care, this is primarily for medication records.

## BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

### National Patient Registry

Data has been collected in the National Patient Registry since 1977, making it one of the world's oldest data registries. The Registry holds data for all hospital treatments and has a large cohort of 13 million (including the deceased) enabling research spanning decades with a whole-population cohort. There are also other registries (over 350 of them) and the use of the Central Person Register number enables effective linkage across different data sources.

### Secure processing environment

When accessing data for research or other secondary uses, data users use a secure processing environment enabling secure access to the data for analysis without any data having to leave the environment.



*“Interoperability is not an end goal, but something you work on continuously and develop and improve.”*

*The important thing is to work incrementally. Denmark has made steady progress since the 1990s.”*

**DANISH HEALTH DATA EXPERT**