



CASE STUDY ESTONIA:

Longstanding leader with nationwide system



Strengths

A highly mature system, Estonia is consistently ranked as a leader in health data and electronic health records (EHRs) in Europe and internationally. The Health Information System (HIS) stores all digitised patient data in one national platform, available to healthcare professionals and patients, with patients able to exert significant control over their data.



Challenges

- The structure of the system - wherein each result or encounter is uploaded manually as a document - means that data is not always updated in a timely manner.
- To date, data is available to patients via an online portal, but there is not yet an app.
- Areas for future improvement include structuring of data and using data to improve outcomes (e.g. patient recorded outcome measures).

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Patient control

Patients have the ability to hide certain information or restrict information to only a certain type of healthcare professional or to a particular individual. However, they cannot edit data in their record.

Publicly available health statistics

Some health data is publicly available in aggregate form for analysis. For instance, you can run analyses in an online dashboard about prescriptions.

Genomics

Over 200,000 Estonians have contributed their genomic data to the Estonian Genome Centre to make it available for research - more than 14% of the entire population.



“At the end of the day, health data is a collection of documents, what you do with it is another thing.

We start thinking what kind of data we should collect in addition [to what we have]. Instead we should think about how to use the data that we already have.”

ESTONIAN HEALTH DATA EXPERT