


EHTEL
Collaborating for Digital Health and Care in Europe

Study on the legal and organizational frameworks for delivery of healthcare services on distance

Introduction

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Definition of Telemedicine

*“The provision of healthcare services, through the use of ICT, in situations where the health professional and the patient (or two health professionals) are not in the same location. It involves secure transmission of medical data and information, through text, sound, images or other forms needed for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients“ **

**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on telemedicine for the benefit of patients, healthcare systems and society /COM/2008/0689 final/. [cited 2015 Nov 10].*

Available from: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52008DC0689>



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Five Basic Types of Telemedicine

1. **Tele*-monitoring:** monitors vital signs at a distance, away from the doctor and even portable by the patient, that send alarm signals to a remote control centre.
2. **Tele-education:** general and technical information made accessible digitally
3. **Tele-intervention:** surgical interventions applied at a distance – such as robotized and computerized machines – which allow the physician to intervene on the patient's body without actually touching it.
4. **Tele-consultation with patients:** process in which the doctor and the patient are physically separated and communicate at a distance, establishing a real-time conversation through videoconference, phone or chat
5. **Tele-consultation among professionals:** Contacts between two or more healthcare professionals regarding a certain medical issue.

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European Legislation And Regulation

- **In the framework of European law, telemedicine is simultaneously a healthcare service and an information technology service**
- **Concerning information and telecommunications**
 - Directive 95/46/EU, the Data Protection Directive,
 - Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
 - Directive 98/34/EC, the Directive on Services of the Information Society
 - Directive 2000/31/EC, the Electronic Commerce Directive
 - Directive 2002/58/EC, the Directive on Privacy and Electronic Communications or e-Privacy Directive.
- **Concerning health services :**
 - Directive 2011/24/EU, to so-called Cross-Border Directive .
- **Proposed Regulation on European Health Data Space**

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Three country reports



Israel

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Germany

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France

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