Swiss eHealth Strategy 2.0 (2018 – 2022)

The "Swiss eHealth Strategy 2.0" accompanies the introduction of the Electronic Patient Record (EPR). It is therefore not a comprehensive strategy to accompany the digital transformation of the healthcare system. This is also reflected in the period from 2018 to 2022, which at the same time takes into account the deadlines of the Federal Law on Electronic Patient Records.

Vision:

- Due to digitalization, the health system is qualitatively better, safer and more efficient.
- People in Switzerland are digitally competent and use the possibilities of new technologies optimally for their health.
- Healthcare institutions and health professionals are digitally networked, exchange information electronically along the treatment chain and can use data once entered several times.

The "Swiss eHealth Strategy 2.0" defines a total of 25 objectives in three fields of action:

1. Promote digitalization

Digital applications in the healthcare system, in particular the Electronic Patient Record, are well established.

2. Align and coordinate digitalization

Digital applications in the healthcare system, in particular the Electronic Patient Record, are well established.

3. Enable for digitalization

Creating technological possibilities is not enough. Patients and healthcare professionals must have the skills to make the most of digital applications in the healthcare system.

Goals of the strategy:

1. Introduction and dissemination of the EPR

The "Swiss eHealth Strategy 2.0" aims to introduce and disseminate the Electronic Patient Record.

2. Coordination of digitization

It should also help to improve the coordination and harmonisation of digitisation in the health sector.

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3. Not an overall strategy

It is therefore not a global strategy designed to support the digital transformation of the health system.

National Activities:

- The electronic patient record (EPR)

The EPR allows the recording of all health data important for the treatment of a patient (e.g. laboratory data, prescriptions or radiological reports). Patients grant access to their healthcare professionals. Authorised healthcare professionals can access the data at any time and from any location. Data protection and data security are top priorities. The opening of an EPR is optional for patients. Patients also have the option of uploading their own data (e.g. allergy-related information or emergency contact details) into their EPR.

EPR information website: www.patientrecord.ch

- mHealth

"mHealth - Recommendations I" have been adopted on this highly provider- and consumer-dependent topic to help improve the transparency of applications offered on the market. The document also addresses the use of data collected by mobile devices as part of the EPR.

- Training and empowerment

Those responsible for basic and continuing education for health professionals and for health management training are supported in integrating 'EPR' and 'eHealth' into training programmes. The guide "eHealth: key themes for health professionals" has been written for this purpose.

- Exchange formats

Exchange formats allow direct exchange of data between the various primary systems of care institutions and health professionals. The technical and semantic standards necessary for a unitary exchange of information are defined in the exchange format specifications. In addition to the exchange formats in force for the EPR (e.g. e-medicine, electronic vaccination record and electronic laboratory report), other exchange formats have also been developed for application cases concerning the field of transplantation, the reporting of infectious diseases and the quality control of laboratory reports.

International integration:

European coordination is closely monitored to ensure that Switzerland is connected to this network. The LDEP also focuses on international standards. The important aspect for Switzerland's future connection to the European network lies above all in the technical integration profiles of IHE (Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise) as well as internationally recognised reference terminology (e.g. SNOMED.CT).

Link to Strategy: German version; French version