eHealth in Estonia

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Content

- Background and first steps of implementation of Estonian Health Information System (EHIS)
- Design of a solution
  - Findings and results
- E-health strategy 2020
- Motivation to create new services
Facts about Estonia

- **Basic facts**
  - Population is 1,3 million
  - Every citizen has unique ID-code

- **Health care system**
  - Compulsory solidarity based health insurance paid by employers; 13% of payroll tax (95%)
  - Health care costs make up to 6% of GDP (9,5% in OECD)
  - Healthcare providers are private, municipal or governmental
  - Hospital system – publicly owned private hospitals
  - General practitioners are private entrepreneurs

- **Facts about e-services**
  - 90% of households have broadband connection (2018)
  - 82% of households using a mobile internet connection (2017)
  - 96% of income tax declarations are made via the E-Tax Board (2017)
  - 44% of votes were cast over the internet on (2019)
  - 99% financial transactions (bank transfers) carried out electronically

- **General**
  - NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre is located in Estonia (2008)
  - Skype is made in Estonia
The Estonian Health Information System is unique as it:
- Encompasses the whole country
- Registers virtually all residents’ health history from birth to death, and
- Is based on the comprehensive standard based IT infrastructure
EHIS and health care IT development

- **1990-2000**: Occasional use of Electronic Medical Records (EMR)
- **2000**: Planning initiated
- **2001**: Electronic transfer of reimbursement claims
- **2006**: Funding decision by Ministry of Economic Affairs
  - Electronic Health Record
  - Digital Images
- **2008**: eHealth Projects (2006-2008)
  - eHealth Foundation established
  - Digital Prescription
  - Digital Registration
- **2008-2009**: Gradual integration of hospital/GP information systems to the EHIS
- **2010**: National EHR System
- **2015**: ePrescription
- **2020**: Implementation of new e-services
Secured financing
- Ministry of Economy and Communication
- Not Ministry of Health (eHealth is not in top 3 priority)

Clear governance of Estonian eHealth services
- Estonian Health and Welfare Information Centre (Estonian E-Health Foundation)

Legal clarity

Mature ecosystem for e-services in Estonia
- Secure data exchange platform provided by the state
- Established on-line identification methods
  - ID-card
  - Mobile-ID

Agreement about access rights

Standardization
- Medical data
- Data exchange
One responsible organization – eHealth Foundation

- Founders were main stakeholders orchestrated by Ministry of Social Affairs
- We missed support of one major stakeholder
- Estonian Medical Association – Professional association of medical doctors
- Parties not involved
  - Patients’ societies or associations
Architecture of Estonian Health Information System (since 2008)

STATE AGENCY OF MEDICINES
- Coding Centre
- Handers of medicines

HEALTH CARE BOARD
- Health care providers
- Health professionals
- Dispensing chemists

QUALITY REGISTERS.

POPULATION REGISTER

BUSINESS REGISTER

HOSPITALS 2008

FAMILY DOCTORS 2009

PHARMACIES 2010 January

SCHOOL NURSES 2010 September

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE 2014

Secure data exchange layer provided by the state
X-Road, ID-card, mobile-ID, State IS Service Register

DRIVING LICENCE
HEALTH CERTIFICATE
APPLICATION 2015

PATIENT PORTAL 2009

X-ROAD GATEWAY SERVICE 2009

PHARMACIES AND FAMILY DOCTORS 2009

NATION-WIDE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE PLATFORM 2008 December

PRESCRIPTION CENTRE 2010 January

SFING Drug-drug Interaction database 2016

NATION-WIDE PICTURE ARCHIVING AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM 2005
eHealth services in Estonia

Exchanged data
- Available documents
- Time critical data (allergy, chronic diseases)
- General practitioners and hospital visits
- Summary of ambulatory and stationary case
- Link to medical images
- Referral letter

Nation-wide EHR System services
- ePrescription
- eReferral
- eAmbulance
- Drug-drug interaction service
- Country-wide digital images

Cross-sectoral services
- Health declaration for driver licence exchange
- Working incapacity assertion
To enter the portal using mobile ID, enter your mobile phone number in the field.
A verification message will be sent to your phone.

Your verification code is: 0127

The message was sent to your phone.
Make sure you see the exact same verification code on your mobile phone screen.
Then enter the PIN1 code of your mobile ID.
Logbook

Specify log search:

Log entry type

- - -

Search

Visible logs: 50

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Person's name</th>
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Patient Portal
The Health Services Organization Act regulates the development and maintenance of the health information system.

- Lays down the necessary requirements to the patient, health service provider, document standards, etc.

- All healthcare providers must send certain health data to EHR System.
  - The set of documents is defined by the law.

- Access only to licensed medical professionals.
  - The attending doctor concept.

- Patient has the right to close own data (opt out).

- The ethical committee was created to lead the discussions of patients’ rights and to select the proper system for the EHR System.

- Citizen can
  - Access their own data
  - Declare intentions and preferences.

Legal environment of eHealth
Major architectural decisions of EHIS

Integration through Central system
- Only final versions of clinical documents sent to central system

Opt-out policy in form “patient can close data from doctors“

Use of standards
- XML based HL7 v3 (extended) messages
- Documents are kept in XML format (HL7 CDA R2)
- All identifiers have OID-s

Reuse of national infrastructure
- ID-card or mobile-ID for authentication and digital signature
- X-road (state service bus) for secure communication
- Personal ID-number to identify a person and connect data in different systems
FINDINGS
40 660 000 medical documents

- 14 different documents

- Health information about 1.6 million inhabitants (Estonia has 1.32 million inhabitants)

- Out-patient case summaries – 21 million

- Exam reports – 10.5 million

- In-patient case summaries – 1.91 million
Use of digital data

Use of Digital Data

- Healthcare professional queries per month
- Patient queries per month
- Documents per month
ePrescription, Estonia

99% of prescriptions are issued in electronic form

Figure 4. Prescription forms bought by the EHIF in 2009–2013.
Logins to iPatient Portal in 2012 and Patient Portal Users in 2015 by age and gender
Estonian eHealth Strategic Development Plan 2020

The Strategic Development Plan was developed by the Task Force operating within the Government Office from July 2014 to November 2015. The materials created by the Task Force on which the development plan was based are available at http://eetervis2020.iom.ee/

The activities of the Task Force were financed from the activity Task Forces and Expert Groups of measure 12.2 “Development of Policy-Making Quality” under priority direction 12 “Administrative capacity” of the application plan of cohesion funds 2014–2020 financed by the European Social Fund.
eHealth vision 2025

- **eHealth vision for year 2025** describes the desirable future state of offering of health care services in Estonia at the era of information society.
- The present vision focuses on the health of people and the health services offered, including the labour market and welfare services related thereto. Thus, the vision associates eHealth also with other areas related to it, in order to ensure their alignment.
FIVE FOCUS AREAS

1. High-quality health information and an infrastructure of health data. Data acquisition is of high quality and data acquisition is efficient from the place of creation until the availability to different users.

2. Focus on persons and personal medicine. People participate in active management of their state of health. Person-based health and gene data analysis and digital decision support allows to offer better targeted services.

3. Comprehensive case management and cooperation of organizations. The provider(s) of health care services and the persons themselves have comprehensive information about the state of health and the action plan of different parties. Health services are smoothly integrated with the social and labour market services.

4. Effectiveness of health services and capacity for analysis. Measure and analyze the effectiveness of the services at all levels of the system.

5. Development of remote services. Possible to achieve a better cost-effectiveness of the health system and accessibility of Estonian eHealth Strategy 2020.
International Human Account Number (IHAN)

- Deployed by Finnish Innovation Fund SITRA in 2018
- Establish key principles, rules & guidelines for human-driven Data exchange Platform. Build awareness and engage people across Europe
- Test, develop and scale Platform to multiple industries and EU countries. Ensure interoperability through technology Proof-of-Concepts
- Develop common Roadmap for fair Data exchange Method. Build Common Governance Model
Motivation to create new services

- EHIS is limited to government provided services
- Integration of applications from third party is cumbersome
- Development of new services is slow
- Consent mechanisms are not available for third party services
- Analytical services are hard to implement because of poor data quality
- Medical data is not what people are looking for – they are looking for services
Potential IHAN enabled services

Data services

- Decision support for data entering – increased data quality
- Creation of specialty specific registries, classifications, terminologies
- Analytics – care quality and performance

Health, medical and social care services

- Integration of different personal health/activity/lifestyle records with governmental health care services
- Wider use of apps in health and medical care
- Consent engine for users

Cross-sectoral or cross-border services

- Integration of social and health care services
- Creation of market for medical services
- Opening medical market for innovation from other sectors
Secure data exchange layer and IHAN services

X-Road, secure identification, data directory, contract and consent engine
• Paradigm change in healthcare professional’s mindset – primary data users
  • Data ownership change
  • Formalization of entered data

• Gradual change of data usage
  • Acceptance of more extensive involvement of citizen/patient
  • Use of shared health, social and medical data

• Change of workflows and pathways in healthcare
  • From linear to matrix
  • More pre-analyzed data – big data services

• Distributed digital System must prevent malicious modifications

• The best technology to provide scalable integrity today is blockchain (hashchain)
Thank you!

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