

# POLICY MAPPING ON eHEALTH POLICIES AND INITIATIVES (INCLUDING ON CANCER CARE) IN GERMANY

This Country Factsheet was first prepared for the eCAN Joint Action and updated for the eCAN+ Joint Action. It is prefilled with publicly available information and was sent for review to country experts on eHealth and cancer care. The Country Factsheet serves as the basis for the preparation of an overview of eCAN relevant policies and initiatives in all EU and EEA countries.

The Joint Action ‘**Enhancing digital capabilities of cancer centres in Europe to improve prevention and care**’ (eCAN Plus) aims to bring the benefits of digital health to all citizens, patients and health care professionals to improve cancer prevention and care across Europe. The rising use of telemedicine and innovative legal framework of European Health Data Space offer opportunity to better address population health needs. Built on the experience of the eCAN JA, this project contributes to integrating digital tools and improving health data use for the benefit of cancer patients. The JA foresees to bring lasting impact to different targeted audiences. The project’s expected outputs pave the way for a wider rollout of **eHealth in oncology** but also supports decision-makers by providing recommendations and guidelines.

This country factsheet was originally **pre-filled in 2023/2024** with publicly available information by

- Claudia Hahl, Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (Austrian National Public Health Institute)
- Anita Gottlob, Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (Austrian National Public Health Institute)
- Katharina Habimana, Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (Austrian National Public Health Institute)
- Tugce Schmitt, at the time Sciensano (Belgian Institute for Health)

The pre-filled country factsheet was **coordinated** with representatives of the German Ministry of Health **in 2023/2024**.

This country factsheet has been **updated** with publicly available information by

- Anita Gottlob-Leitner, Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (Austrian National Public Health Institute)

This updated country factsheet was again **reviewed in February 2024** by the

- German Ministry of Health

The country factsheet includes chapters on:

- 1 definitions**
- 2 governance**
- 3 strategies/policies**
- 4 legislation**
- 5 cancer specific eHealth solutions**

Any questions? – Please get in touch via [ecan@goeg.at](mailto:ecan@goeg.at).

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## 1 DEFINITIONS

Table 1 : Deviations in the use of international definitions for eHealth terms - Germany

| Term    | Definition  | Deviation  |
|---------|---|--|
| eHealth | The WHO defines eHealth as « cost-effective and secure use of information and communications technologies in support of health and health-related fields, including health-care services, health surveillance, health literature, and health education, knowledge and research ». <sup>1</sup>  | No deviation from the definition. German MoH defines eHealth accordingly. <sup>2</sup>   |
| mHealth | « Mobile health (mHealth) is defined by the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Observatory for eHealth as « medical and public health practice supported by mobile devices, such as mobile phones, patient monitoring devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and other wireless devices ». <sup>3</sup>   | No deviation from the definition. Even if there is no uniform definition of the term ‘mobile health’ used in Germany, <sup>4</sup> the CHARISMHA study <sup>5</sup> commissioned by the German MoH, defines mobile health as ‘ <i>health care electronically supported health care by mobile devices</i> ’. Mobile hardware includes smartphones, wearables such as smartwatches or other mini-computers that collect health data, remind people to take their medication etc. Mobile software includes so-called medical apps and, in a broader sense, fitness and wellness apps. |
| dHealth | The EU defines digital health (dHealth) and care as referring to « tools and services that use information and communication technologies (ICTs) to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and management of health-related issues and to monitor and manage lifestyle-habits that impact health ». <sup>6</sup><br>The WHO defines digital health as « the field of knowledge and practice associated with the development and use of digital technologies to improve health. Digital health expands the concept of eHealth to include digital consumers, with a wider range of smart-devices and connected equipment. It also encompasses other uses of digital technologies for health such as the Internet of | Term not widely used in Germany, and if so synonymously with the term eHealth <sup>8</sup> or in combination with the term ‘apps’.   |

<sup>1</sup> [WHO EMRO - eHealth](#)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/service/begriffe-von-a-z/e/e-health.html#:~:text=Unter%20E%2DHealth%20werden%20Anwendungen,und%20Kommunikationstechnologien%20\(%20IKT%20\)%20bieten.](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/service/begriffe-von-a-z/e/e-health.html#:~:text=Unter%20E%2DHealth%20werden%20Anwendungen,und%20Kommunikationstechnologien%20(%20IKT%20)%20bieten.)

<sup>3</sup> [mHealth Assessment: Conceptualization of a Global Framework - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#), [mHealth](#)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.bvdw.org/fileadmin/bvdw/upload/publikationen/digital-commerce/201611\\_ES\\_BVDW\\_Leitfaden\\_Mobile\\_Health\\_2016.pdf](https://www.bvdw.org/fileadmin/bvdw/upload/publikationen/digital-commerce/201611_ES_BVDW_Leitfaden_Mobile_Health_2016.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5\\_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Berichte/Abschlussbericht\\_CHARISMHA.pdf](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Berichte/Abschlussbericht_CHARISMHA.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [Events - Smart4Health](#)

<sup>8</sup> [bidw-positionspapier-zum-thema-e-health-digital-health.pdf \(bmwk.de\)](#)

| Term             | Definition  | Deviation  |
|------------------|---|--|
|                  | things, artificial intelligence, big data and robotics. » <sup>7</sup>  |  |
| Telehealth       | The WHO defines telehealth broader than telemedicine « as it includes computer-assisted telecommunications to support management, surveillance, literature and access to medical knowledge. » <sup>9</sup>  | Term not widely used in Germany both in English and German (as ‘Telegesundheit’). Not defined in official documents. Rather use of the term ‘telemedicine’ (see below).  |
| Telemedicine     | The EU Commission defines telemedicine as follows (EU Commission definition, COM(2008)689): « Telemedicine is the provision of health care 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 the 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. » <sup>10</sup> | No deviation from the definition. German MoH uses the term telemedicine accordingly as “Telemedizin”. <sup>11</sup>  |
| teleconsultation | PAHO describes teleconsultation (also sometimes referred to as remote consultation or telehealth), as « interactions that happen between a clinician and a patient for the purpose of providing diagnostic or therapeutic advice through electronic means. » <sup>12</sup>  | Term not defined in official documents. Likely, when in use no deviation from the definition. No deviation from the definition. German term is ‘Fernbehandlung’, which is defined within law (DVPMG). <sup>13</sup> Another document also refers to the term ‘Videosprechstunde’ in this context. <sup>14</sup>  |
| health app       | Essén et al. 2022 define health apps as « a computer program or software application (designed to run on a mobile device) “intended to be used specifically for managing, maintaining, or improving the health of individual persons, or the delivery of care” (ISO <a href="https://www.iso.org/standard/78182.html">https://www.iso.org/standard/78182.html</a> (2021), p 5). »   | In Germany there is a special form of health apps, the so-called digital health applications (DiGA) which can be prescribed by physicians and psychotherapists and are reimbursed by health insurers. Prerequisite for the above is that a DiGA must have successfully completed the assessment of the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte, BfArM) leading to a listing in a directory of reimbursable digital health applications (DiGA directory, in the following also only called directory). <sup>15</sup> |

## Further information:

- Germany’s Digitalisation Strategy for Health and Care<sup>16</sup>
- Several online eHealth glossaries are available.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>7</sup> [Digital health EURO \(who.int\)](https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/digital-health)

<sup>9</sup> [Telehealth – DigitalHealthEurope](https://www.digitalhealth.eu/)

<sup>10</sup> [Telemedicine – DigitalHealthEurope](https://www.digitalhealth.eu/)

<sup>11</sup> [Telemedizin \(bundesgesundheitsministerium.de\)](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www3.paho.org/ish/images/docs/covid-19-teleconsultations-en.pdf?ua=1>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/service/gesetze-und-verordnungen/guv-19-lp/dvpmg.html>

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.g-ba.de/downloads/39-261-5834/2023-01-19\\_HeilM-RL\\_Verordnungen-Fernbehandlung\\_BAnz.pdf](https://www.g-ba.de/downloads/39-261-5834/2023-01-19_HeilM-RL_Verordnungen-Fernbehandlung_BAnz.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/themen/krankenversicherung/online-ratgeber-krankenversicherung/arznei-heil-und-hilfsmittel/digitale-gesundheitsanwendungen.html>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/themen/digitalisierung/digitalisierungsstrategie.html>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ehealth-in-hessen.de/Glossar>; <https://leitbegriffe.bzga.de/alphabetisches-verzeichnis/digitalisierung-in-praevention-und-gesundheitsfoerderung/>; [https://www.svr-gesundheit.de/fileadmin/Gutachten/Gutachten\\_2021/SVR\\_Gutachten\\_2021.pdf](https://www.svr-gesundheit.de/fileadmin/Gutachten/Gutachten_2021/SVR_Gutachten_2021.pdf) (chapter 8)

## 2 GOVERNANCE

Table 2 : Overview on eHealth governance - Germany

| Question  | Answer                                 | Comments/Experience  |
|---|--|--|
| Is there a Ministry or State Secretariat explicitly in charge of eHealth/dHealth in place? If so, which Ministry?   | Yes                                    | The Federal Ministry of Health is responsible for eHealth on the national level. <sup>18</sup>   |
| Does the Ministry who oversees health care also have a specific Department or Unit in charge of eHealth/dHealth?  | Yes                                    | The Directorate - General 5 on Digitalisation and Innovation in the Federal Ministry of Health is the responsible department in charge of eHealth in Germany. <sup>19</sup>  |
| Is there a national eHealth governance board in place?  | No                                     | There is no national eHealth governance board in Germany. But a working group on eHealth <sup>20</sup> as well as several working groups on digital health topics in several organisations. In addition, there is a general health board (Sachverständigenrat, SVR). <sup>21</sup>   |
| Is there a public eHealth agency in place? At which level (national, regional)? Which functions does this agency cover?   | Yes                                    | There is the « gematik GmbH» <sup>22</sup> at national level, a federally majority-owned company. The gematik GmbH manages the telematics infrastructure (TI) and covers a wide range of functions, inter alia in relation to applications such as the electronic patient record (ePA für alle) or ePrescription (see more on the website) <sup>23</sup> . |
| If no, are there any other public institutions working in the field of eHealth?   | N/A                                    | Not applicable.  |
| Are dHealth / eHealth tools in the outpatient sector publicly paid or covered in your benefits package (e.g. by sickness fund or national health service)? If yes, please describe how.                         | Yes, infrastructure and some solutions | Infrastructure in eHealth is free of charge for patients. Patients can get teleconsultations for free, patients are allowed to have teleconsultations with physicians that they had already consulted in-person. <sup>24</sup> Standard care services included in the benefits package are a part of G-BA regulations.                                     |
| Are dHealth / eHealth tools in the inpatient sector automatically covered in your benefits package or do you need to pay extra (e.g. for telehealth consultations or telereha) compared to standard treatments? | Yes (infrastructure)                   | Infrastructure in eHealth is free of charge for patients.  |
| Are there any comprehensive cancer centres focussing on eHealth or telehealth treatments? If yes, which ones and for which specific fields?   | Yes                                    | CCC Charite Berlin uses high-definition video conferencing systems integrated into the Charité data network for the simultaneous transmission of camera image and data in the conference rooms. Special emphasis is placed on the transmission of radiological images. <sup>25</sup>   |

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/themen/digitalisierung/digitalisierung-im-gesundheitswesen.html>

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.bmbf.de/bmbf/de/ueber-uns/aufgaben-und-aufbau/die-organisation-des-hauses/die-organisation-des-hauses\\_node.html](https://www.bmbf.de/bmbf/de/ueber-uns/aufgaben-und-aufbau/die-organisation-des-hauses/die-organisation-des-hauses_node.html)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.bitkom.org/Bitkom/Organisation/Gremien/E-Health.html>

<sup>21</sup> [Start - SVR Gesundheit \(svr-gesundheit.de\)](http://Start-SVR-Gesundheit(svr-gesundheit.de))

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.gematik.de/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.gematik.de/anwendungen>

<sup>24</sup> [Use of teleconsultations | Health at a Glance: Europe 2022 : State of Health in the EU Cycle | OECD iLibrary \(oecd-ilibrary.org\)](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/health-at-a-glance/europe-2022-state-of-health-in-the-eu-cycle)

<sup>25</sup> [Telemedizin in der Onkologie: Qualität verbessern – aber wie? | SpringerLink](https://www.springerlink.com)

| Question | Answer | Comments/Experience   |
|----------|--------|---|
|          |        | In addition, the ‘tumour conference’ is the special focus of telemedical solutions for cancer centres in Germany. <sup>26</sup> |

### Further information:

- No further information available.

## 3 STRATEGIES/POLICIES

Table 3 : Overview on strategies and policies for eHealth and cancer care - Germany

| Question   | Answer  | Comments/Experience  |
|--|---------|--|
| Is there a national eHealth strategy in place?   | Yes     | There is a national eHealth strategy in place. <sup>27</sup>   |
| If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting the national eHealth strategy?   | Several | For the development of the strategy, the Federal Ministry of Health intensively involved the various actors in the health and care system, in particular patients and people in need of care and their relatives, at an early stage. <sup>28</sup>   |
| Are there regional eHealth strategies? If so, can you indicate whether in all regions or only some? Can you provide some (exemplary) documents ? | Yes     | Several regions ( <i>Bundesländer</i> ) have regional eHealth strategies in place. <sup>29</sup>   |
| If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting such regional strategy/ies?  | Varies  | No further information available.  |
| Are there strategy/ies explicitly referring to / including eHealth cancer care?  | Partly  | Germany’s Digitalisation Strategy for Health and Care addresses several aspects with relevance for digital health in the context of cancer, as, for example, a better connectability of data from different sources (like cancer registries).  |
| If not, are there discussions ongoing to develop a national eHealth strategy?  | N/A     | Not applicable.  |
| Is there a National Cancer Plan in place?  | Yes     | The German National Cancer Plan (NCP) <sup>30</sup> was initiated in June 2008 and is still ongoing. The NCP is a “cooperation and coordination programme” involving all relevant stakeholders of the Health Care System which is decentralised. Therefore, there is a need to engage all relevant players and stakeholders in the development of cancer control policy. During the development of the NCP around 20 different organisations notably the German Cancer Society, German Cancer Aid, the Joint Working Group of German Tumor Centres (all three are co-initiators of the NCP), along with different organisation representing the Laender, scientists, purchasers and providers as well as patient representatives were involved. . The NCP has focused on the following fields of action: |

<sup>26</sup> [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-662-58225-1\\_11](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-662-58225-1_11); <https://www.digitalhealthportal.de/telekom-healthcare/251-tumorkonferenz-mediziner-tauschen-fachwissen-via-telemedizin-plattform-aus>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/topics/digitalisation/digitalisation-strategy>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/topics/digitalisation/digitalisation-strategy/the-strategy-development-process>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.ehealth-in-hessen.de/Start> and <https://gesundheit-wird-digital.de/> and <https://www.gesundheit-digital.nrw/>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/themen/praevention/nationaler-krebsplan/der-nationale-krebsplan-stellt-sich-vor.html>; <https://www.ipaac.eu/res/file/outputs/wp10/national-cancer-control-plans-survey.pdf>; [Organisation des Nationalen Krebsplans \(bundesgesundheitsministerium.de\)](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de)

| Question  | Answer | Comments/Experience  |
|---|--------|--|
|   |        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further development of early cancer detection</li> <li>• Further development of oncological care structures and quality assurance</li> <li>• Ensuring efficient oncological treatment (initial focus on oncological drug therapy)</li> <li>• Strengthening patient orientation.</li> </ul> <p>In November 2024, the Federal Ministry of Health taking stock of implementing the National Cancer Plan concluded that the aims and objectives formulated since 2008 had been achieved. Not least with a view to further maximize alignment with the “Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan”, new areas for action in the German NCP were defined as part of a national consultation process. The updated plan aims to broaden its scope by focusing on shared risk factors, such as smoking, alcohol, poor diet, and physical inactivity, that contribute to multiple NCDs, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes: Other topics of the updated National Cancer Plan include “quality and networking in oncological care,” and “long-term survival after cancer.” Research and digitalization are cross-cutting themes.<sup>31</sup></p> |
| If yes, does the National Cancer Plan refer to eHealth?   | No     | Interoperability and data have been identified as priority areas in the revised German NCP. Interoperability of oncological data will be promoted in order to foster availability, exchange and utilisation of existing and prospective oncological data. However, specific projects on eHealth with cancer as use-case are not included.  |
| In the light of the EU „Beating Cancer Plan” – are there any recent plans to update or modify existing plans? If yes, what is the timeline?   | N/A    | Please see above comment. The NCP is on-going. There is no fixed timeline.   |
| Are there any indicators in eHealth policy or national programmes on cancer care measuring the progress of the use of eHealth in cancer care? | N/A    | Please see above answer.   |
| Are there any other cancer care specific eHealth initiatives, f.e. by other stakeholders than policy makers / public authorities?             | Yes    | <p>There are several other initiatives such as e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital gegen Krebs<sup>32</sup> or</li> <li>• The interoperability directory (Vesta)<sup>33</sup> show that telemedical areas of care that are particularly well developed in terms of telemedicine are radiology and stroke care (Schenkel 2017; Breuer and Schwab 2017). As a rule, these are local or regional care approaches.<sup>34</sup></li> <li>• The Robert Bosch Foundation (Robert Bosch Stiftung) is active in the topic.<sup>35</sup></li> </ul>  |

### Further information:

- No further information identified.

<sup>31</sup> [https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/3\\_Downloads/N/Nationaler\\_Krebsplan/061124\\_Gemeinsame\\_Erklaerung\\_-\\_Nationaler\\_Krebsplan.pdf](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/3_Downloads/N/Nationaler_Krebsplan/061124_Gemeinsame_Erklaerung_-_Nationaler_Krebsplan.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> <https://e-health-com.de/details-news/digital-gegen-den-krebs/>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.informationsportal.vesta-gematik.de/projekte-anwendungen/>

<sup>34</sup> [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-662-58225-1\\_11](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-662-58225-1_11)

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.bosch-health-campus.de/de>

## 4 LEGISLATION

Table 4 : Overview on eHealth and cancer legislation - Germany

| Question  | Answer | Comments/Experience   |
|---|--------|---|
| Is there a general legal framework covering eHealth related topics in your country? | Yes    | The legal basis for which outpatient services can be provided by telemedicine can be found in the Social Code Section 5 (Sozialgesetz) § 87 para. 2a (SGB V). <sup>36</sup>   |
| Is there specific legislation on the use of telemedicine?                           | Yes    | <p>The “Gesetz für sichere digitale Kommunikation und Anwendungen im Gesundheitswesen (E-Health-Gesetz) a.k.a "Act for Secure Digital Communication and Applications in the Health Care System (E-Health Act)", came into force on 29 December 2015.<sup>37</sup></p> <p>The eHealth Act is a first framework for the development of a secure telematics infrastructure (TI). Since then, several laws have come into force, e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Appointment Service and Supply Act (TSVG),</li> <li>• the Act for More Security in the Supply of Medicines (GSAV),</li> <li>• the Digital Supply Act (DVG),</li> <li>• the Patient Data Protection Act (PDSG),</li> <li>• the Digital Supply and Care Modernisation Act (DVPMG),</li> <li>• the Digitalisation Act (Digitalgesetz, DigiG).</li> </ul>   |
| Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to cancer prevention?            | Yes    | <p>The Cancer Screening and Registries Act of 2013<sup>38</sup> is one of the milestones in the implementation of the National Cancer Plan (NCP) of Germany. With this Act, two key areas of the NCP’s recommendations that required legislative action have been implemented: 1. The Cancer Screening and Registries Act created a succinct legal framework for transferring the former opportunistic screening programmes for cervical and colorectal cancer (both since 1970s) into organised quality-assured cancer screening programmes. It makes explicit reference to the EU-Screening Guidelines. 2. It created the legal and financial framework that was necessary to set up clinical cancer registries on a nationwide scale in Germany. At the federal level and Laender/regional level the Cancer Screening and Registry Act was implemented by way of secondary legislation (guidelines, regulations, contractual agreement, legal acts). The “Unified Collection and Merging of Cancer Registry Data”<sup>39</sup> extended in particular the legal framework created by the Cancer Screening and Registries Act. It came into force on 31 August 2021. The rationale is to exhaust more fully the potential from (epidemiological and clinical) cancer registry data for the benefit of the patients and to further research on cancer care. On the basis of the “Cancer Screening and Registry Act” a nation-wide organised quality-assured colo-rectal cancer screening programme was introduced on 1 July 2019<sup>40</sup>. The former guaiac-based gFOBT was replaced by quantitative immunological iFOBTs in April 2017. A nation-wide organised quality-assured cervical cancer screening programme was introduced on 1 January 2020. Since then women aged 35</p> |

<sup>36</sup> [https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/sgb\\_5/](https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/sgb_5/)

<sup>37</sup> [Das E-Health-Gesetz \(bundesgesundheitsministerium.de\) https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/service/begriffe-von-a-z/e/e-health-gesetz.html](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/service/begriffe-von-a-z/e/e-health-gesetz.html)

<sup>38</sup> [www.bgbl.de/xaver/bgbl/start.xav?startbk=Bundesanzeiger\\_BGBI&jumpTo=bgbl113s0617.pdf#\\_bgbl\\_%2F%2F\\*%5B%40attr\\_id%3D%27bgbl113s0617.pdf%27%5D\\_1584360645875](https://www.bgbl.de/xaver/bgbl/start.xav?startbk=Bundesanzeiger_BGBI&jumpTo=bgbl113s0617.pdf#_bgbl_%2F%2F*%5B%40attr_id%3D%27bgbl113s0617.pdf%27%5D_1584360645875)

<sup>39</sup> [https://www.bgbl.de/xaver/bgbl/start.xav?startbk=Bundesanzeiger\\_BGBI&start=//%5B%40attr\\_id%27bgbl121s3890.pdf%27%5D#\\_bgbl\\_%2F%2F\\*%5B%40attr\\_id%3D%27bgbl121s3890.pdf%27%5D\\_1686312276226](https://www.bgbl.de/xaver/bgbl/start.xav?startbk=Bundesanzeiger_BGBI&start=//%5B%40attr_id%27bgbl121s3890.pdf%27%5D#_bgbl_%2F%2F*%5B%40attr_id%3D%27bgbl121s3890.pdf%27%5D_1686312276226)

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.g-ba.de/presse/pressemitteilungen-meldungen/791/>; <https://www.g-ba.de/presse/pressemitteilungen-meldungen/1248/>

| Question   | Answer    | Comments/Experience  |
|--|-----------|--|
|  |           | <p>years and over are entitled to a combined three-yearly examination comprising a pap smear and an HPV-test<sup>41</sup>.</p> <p>Between 2005 and 2009 the nationwide roll-out and implementation of the mammography-screening-programme (according to the EU guidelines of quality assurance in breast cancer screening) for women aged from 50 to 69 years took place. Since 1 July 2024, the upper age limit has been extended to 75 years.<sup>42</sup></p> <p>According to the Radiation Protection Act (from 2017), early detection examinations that use X-ray (currently mammography-screening, lung cancer screening) must first be authorized by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (akronym: BMUKN). The introduction of low-dose computer tomography for the early detection of lung cancer in heavy active and former smokers aged 50 to 75 is currently being prepared. A corresponding regulation by the BMUKN came into force on July 1 2024<sup>43</sup>. The decision to introduce the screening for lung cancer was taken by the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) on June 18, 2025. Lung cancer screening will be offered as a screening programme with a quality assurance framework but without an invitation system – to be covered by statutory health insurance with a probable starting date in April 2026<sup>44 45 46</sup>.</p> <p>Only when European guidelines are available, the lung cancer screening will be transferred to a comprehensive organised programme including an invitation system.</p> |
| <p>Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to / including eHealth in cancer care?</p> | <p>No</p> | <p>No indications of such a law were identified.</p>   |

**Further information:**

- No further information identified.

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.g-ba.de/presse/pressemitteilungen-meldungen/774/>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/brustkrebs-frueherkennung-fuer-frauen-kuenftig-bis-zum-alter-von-75-jahren-moeglich#:~:text=Die%20Erste%20Verordnung%20zur%20%C3%84nderung,50%20bis%2069%20Jahren%20zugelassen;Mammographie-Screening kuenftig auch fuer Frauen von 70 bis 75 Jahren – G-BA passt Frueherkennungsprogramm an - Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss;https://www.bundesumweltministerium.de/gesetz/referentenentwurf-der-zweiten-verordnung-zur-aenderung-der-brustkrebs-frueherkennungs-verordnung>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.recht.bund.de/bgbl/1/2024/162/VO.html>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.g-ba.de/presse/pressemitteilungen-meldungen/1263/>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.g-ba.de/themen/methodenbewertung/erwachsene/krebsfrueherkennung/lungenkrebs-screening/>

<sup>46</sup> [https://www.g-ba.de/downloads/62-492-4026/KFE-RL\\_2025-10-16\\_iK-2026-01-16.pdf](https://www.g-ba.de/downloads/62-492-4026/KFE-RL_2025-10-16_iK-2026-01-16.pdf)

## 5 CANCER SPECIFIC eHEALTH SOLUTIONS

Table 5 : Overview on cancer specific eHealth solutions in use – Germany

Note: Given the fact that there are 96 statutory health insurance funds which all offer various digital solutions no comprehensive overview can be provided here. More information can be found here: <https://diga.bfarm.de/de/verzeichnis?type=%5B%22active%22%5D>

|                                   | Login Websites   | Apps  | Webinars | Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)  | Teleconsultation (HCP-patient) | Telemonitoring via devices |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Ecosystem</b>                  | Yes, there is a German eHealth platform  | Yes, e.g. myoncare application <sup>47</sup>  | -        | -   | -                              | -                          |
| <b>Prevention of Cancer</b>       | -  | Yes, two for breast cancer, see DiGA index <sup>48</sup>  | -        | -   | -                              | -                          |
| <b>Treatment of Cancer</b>        | Yes, e.g., P2ortal: Patient portal for oncology patients and others. <sup>49</sup> | Yes, e.g., Software and Patient App <i>DTB - der Digitale Therapiebegleiter in der Onkologie</i> <sup>50</sup> ; Concretely on cancer care treatment Tino DTB app <sup>51</sup>   | -        | Yes, e.g., AMP.clinic, a website aimed at medical professionals also in the field of oncology that enables consultative exchange between specialist centres and across hospital boundaries. <sup>52</sup> | -                              | -                          |
| <b>'Living with cancer'</b>       | -  | Yes, e.g., DTB der Digitale Therapiebegleiter in der Onkologie <sup>53</sup> ; CANKADO Pro-react Onco App on prescription <sup>54</sup> ; Optimune <sup>55</sup> – Breast cancer App ; Pink – breast cancer app <sup>56</sup> | -        | -   | -                              | -                          |
| <b>Rehabilitation from Cancer</b> | -  | -   | -        | -   | -                              | -                          |
| <b>Palliative Cancer Care</b>     | -  | -   | -        | -   | -                              | -                          |

<sup>47</sup> [myoncare | Virtuelle koordinierte Gesundheitsversorgung](#)

<sup>48</sup> [DiGA-Verzeichnis \(bfarm.de\)](#)

<sup>49</sup> [Patientenportal - Patienten als Versorgungslotsen in eigener Sache | vesta Informationsportal \(vesta-gematik.de\)](#)

<sup>50</sup> <https://tino-dtb.de/>

<sup>51</sup> [Tino DTB: Die App bei Krebs für Patienten und Ärzte – Tino DTB \(tino-dtb.de\)](#)

<sup>52</sup> [AMP.clinic - Awesome Technologies \(awesome-technologies.de\)](#)

<sup>53</sup> <https://tino-dtb.de/>

<sup>54</sup> <https://diga.cankado.com/>

<sup>55</sup> <https://diga.bfarm.de/de/verzeichnis/01613>

<sup>56</sup> <https://diga.bfarm.de/de/verzeichnis/01464>

Table 6 : Number of eHealth solutions available and in use – Germany

| Question   | Answer  | Comments/Experience   |
|--|---|---|
| How many eHealth solutions (in the sense of medical devices and thus ‘authority approved/certified’) solutions are existing currently in your country in the context of cancer care/treatment? | 3 medical devices categorized solutions                           | Three cancer related solutions are approved as medical devices in Germany. There is a portal (Digitale Gesundheitsanwendung Verzeichnis, DiGA) <sup>57</sup> which features all state approved health applications. There are three cancer related apps which have also been added in the table above. There is also an information/interoperability portal in Germany (VESTA, operated by Gematik) featuring all the currently existing telemedicine solutions and applications (it seems to be broader than just telemedicine). <sup>58</sup> The Charisma Study <sup>59</sup> found that: Within the framework of the research on the websites and in the app stores, a total of 81 apps could be identified that are offered by the total of 166 statutory health insurance funds and their umbrella organisations as well as the private health insurers in Germany. Almost all of the apps identified were available free of charge to the insured. Apart from exceptions (e.g. disease-related apps), ‘insured persons in general’ were named as the target group. None of the apps were specifically targeted to cancer patients or labelled as apps for cancer prevention/treatment. |
| Is there a website or other information on solutions that are recommended to the public for use (e.g. a selection of health apps that are recommended to cancer patients or in general)?       | Yes   | The DiGA lists applications recommended (as medical devices) in Germany (see above).  |
| Can you give an estimation on how the split between private and public apps are available? Give an estimate percentage of public solutions.  | Yes   | At the moment, there are 54 DiGAs permanently and preliminary listed in the DiGA registry.  |
| How can providers and patients assess if the apps are reliable? Is there a certification or quality approval procedure in place? If yes, which kind of procedure?                              | If an app is considered a medical device or via overview websites | In Germany, health apps must be legally distinguished into medical products and non-medical products, based on the Medizinproduktegesetz, MPG <sup>60</sup> , even if both could in principle be used in a medical context in terms of their range of functions. They are medical devices if the manufacturer of the app assigns a medical purpose to it. The MPG also includes aspects on health apps and their classification into ‘medical products’ as well as into different risk classes. For users, this could be a reliability check.<br>The DiGA lists applications recommended (as medical devices) in Germany (see above). Furthermore, the electronic patient record (elektronische Patientenakte, ePA) is an important tool for persons with long-term diseases, such as chronic diseases or cancer. With the help of their ePAs, patients can view and manage their medical documents via their smartphones.  |
| How many Health Care Providers use such solutions? Which sector uses rather which types of solutions?  | N/A   | Between September 2020 and September 2022 there have been 164.000 DiGAs prescribed.   |

<sup>57</sup> <https://diga.bfarm.de/de> and <https://diga.bfarm.de/de/verzeichnis?search=Krebs>

<sup>58</sup> [Projekte & Anwendungen | www.informationsportal.vesta-gematik.de](https://www.informationsportal.vesta-gematik.de)

<sup>59</sup> [https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5\\_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Berichte/Abschlussbericht\\_CHARISMHA.pdf](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Berichte/Abschlussbericht_CHARISMHA.pdf)

<sup>60</sup> Medizinproduktegesetz: [HBfArM - Gesetze und Verordnungen](#)