

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

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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.

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

1 DEFINITIONS

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

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 ». ¹	No deviation from definition. eHealth includes use of electronic health records, health information exchange, telehealth and personal health records utilization. ²
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 ». ³	No deviation from definition. ⁴
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 ». ⁵ 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 things, artificial intelligence, big data and robotics. » ⁶	Digital health (in short dHealth) is not defined formally or legally as a term in Spain.
telehealth	The WHO defines telehealth broader than telemedicine « as it includes computer-assisted telecommunications to support management, surveillance, literature and access to medical knowledge. » ⁷	Telehealth is not defined formally or legally as a term in Spain.
tele-medicine	The EU Commission defines telemedicine as follows (EU Commission definition, COM(2008)689) : « Telemedicine is the provision	Telemedicine is not defined formally or legally as a term in Spain.

¹ [WHO EMRO - eHealth](#)

² HiT Spain, 2 2018, p. 78

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

⁴ [IJERPH | Free Full-Text | eHealth and mHealth Development in Spain: Promise or Reality? \(mdpi.com\)](#)

⁵ [Events - Smart4Health](#)

⁶ [Digital health EURO \(who.int\)](#)

⁷ [Telehealth – DigitalHealthEurope](#)

Term	Definition	Deviation
	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. » ⁸	
tele-consultation	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. » ⁹	UNE 179011 standard defines teleconsultation as <i>health consultation provided remotely between health professionals and the patient and, where appropriate, their support person, through telematic media. The UNE 179011 Standard specifies the minimum requirements to specify the remote consultation service. Modalities, associated technology, healthcare process and service quality assessment are some aspects covered by this technical standard.</i> ¹⁰ The UNE standards (UNE 179011 standard. Health services. Teleconsultation.) are normative documents created by the Technical Committees for Standardization (CTN) of the Spanish Association for Standardization (UNE) and whose main objective is to guarantee levels of safety and quality. The UNE standards are generally voluntary, unless a Law, Royal Decree or Regulation establishes that certain UNE is mandatory.
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 https://www.iso.org/standard/78182.html (2021), p 5). »	Health app is not defined formally or legally in Spain. If a health app is considered a medical device or an accessory to a medical device, the software must comply with the relevant regulation by the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices. ¹¹

Further information:

- No further information identified.

⁸ [Telemedicine – DigitalHealthEurope](#)

⁹ <https://www3.paho.org/ish/images/docs/covid-19-teleconsultations-en.pdf?ua=1>

¹⁰ [UNE creates a new teleconsultation standard to guarantee quality patient care](#)

¹¹ [Digital health apps and telemedicine in Spain | CMS Expert Guides](#)

2 GOVERNANCE

Table 2 : Overview on eHealth governance - Spain

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 Ministry of Health (MoH, Ministerio de Sanidad) is responsible for eHealth in Spain on the national level. In addition 17 regional authorities in the autonomous communities and cities (ACs) regulate and implement health policies in their region. In 2020, in addition a General Secretariat for Digital Health, Information and Innovation was established. ¹²
Does the Ministry who oversees health care also have a specific Department or Unit in charge of eHealth/dHealth?	Yes	The General Secretariat for Digital Health, Information and Innovation is established in the Ministry of Health. <i>'The General Secretariat for Digital Health, Information and Innovation of the National Health System is formed by: the General Directorate of Digital Health and Information Systems for the National Health System; the Technical Cabinet; the General Subdirectorate for Project Management and Innovation; and the General Subdirectorate for Health Information. They all belong to the Ministry of Health.'</i> ¹³ There is also an Electronic Department (Sede) in the Ministry of Health. It is the electronic access point to different services of the Ministry's management centres that require identification or authentication by citizens. The department has a series of services such as: its own electronic register, consultation of the list of procedures and means for the formulation of suggestions and inquires. ¹⁴
Is there a national eHealth governance board in place?	Yes	In 2021, the Interterritorial Council of the National Health System has agreed to create the Digital Health Commission aiming to contribute to co-governance with the Autonomous Communities. ¹⁵
Is there a public eHealth agency in place? At which level (national, regional)? Which functions does this agency cover?	No	eHealth is governed by the Ministry of Health and its established structures (see above).
If no, are there any other public institutions working in the field of eHealth?	N/A	No further information available.
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, but regional differences for services	In principle telehealth services and tools can be covered within the public reimbursement system. It depends on the region which services are provided to the population free of charge. ¹⁶ General eHealth services (in the sense of infrastructural services) such as electronic prescription or Electronic Health Records are provided free of charge.
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?		

¹² https://www.sanidad.gob.es/ciudadanos/pdf/Digital_Health_Strategy.pdf

¹³ [Spain National Node Info | European Health Information Portal](#)

¹⁴ [Ministry of Health - Electronic Headquarters](#)

¹⁵ [Comisión de Salud Digital – Ametic](#)

¹⁶ [PT22 Evaluating Reimbursement Pathway of Digital Health Technologies \(DHT\) Across Five European Countries - Value in Health](#)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Are there any comprehensive cancer centres focussing on eHealth or telehealth treatments? If yes, which ones and for which specific fields?	No	There are several comprehensive cancer centers (CCCs) in Spain. None of these seems to specifically focus on eHealth or telehealth.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

3 STRATEGIES/POLICIES

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

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a national eHealth strategy in place?	Yes	The Digital Health Strategy is the Spanish national eHealth strategy. ¹⁷ It aligns with other related national strategies such as the Digital Spain 2025 Strategy, the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, the Industrial Policy Strategy for Spain 2030 and the Personalised Medicine Strategy, as well as with EU and international policies in the field.
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting the national eHealth strategy?	Several	The Digital Health Strategy was elaborated by the Digital Health General Secretariat, was agreed to by the Digital Health Commission and approved by the Interterritorial Council, both bodies with representatives from all Spanish regions.
Are there regional eHealth strategies? If so, can you indicate whether in all regions or only some? Can you provide some (exemplary) documents ?	Yes	There are regional strategies for eHealth in Spain, relying on the national Digital Health Strategy's implementation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some regions have specific plans for eHealth.¹⁸ • Other regions have included e-Health in general Digital Transformation Plans.¹⁹
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting such regional strategy/ies?	Varies	It depends on the regions.
Are there strategy/ies explicitly referring to / including eHealth cancer care?	Yes	The Digital Health Strategy mentions eHealth in connection with cancer care in the light of European efforts: <i>'Thus, the European Data Strategy calls for the creation of a European health data space⁸, an idea that is also present in the Communication "Shaping Europe digital future" advocating that digitised health records, collected in a European health data space, can lead to better treatment of major chronic diseases, such as cancer and rare diseases, but also to equal access to high quality health services for all people'</i> . ²⁰
If not, are there discussions ongoing to develop a national eHealth strategy?	N/A	No further information available.
Is there a National Cancer Plan in place?	Yes	There is a National Cancer Plan from 2009 ²¹ and an actualisation (Cancer Strategy of the Spanish National Health System) from 2021. ²²
If yes, does the National Cancer Plan refer to eHealth?	Yes	The 2021 Cancer Strategy of the Spanish National Health System references some objectives regarding cancer data and information.

¹⁷ https://www.sanidad.gob.es/ciudadanos/pdf/Digital_Health_Strategy.pdf

¹⁸ Such as: <https://www.saludinforma.es/portalsi/estrategia-de-salud-digital>

¹⁹ Such as: <https://dgtic.gva.es/documents/85347/174021442/GEN+Digital+2025+castellano/8fc144b0-2c0a-4af5-a2d9-f514f8191c02>

²⁰ https://www.sanidad.gob.es/ciudadanos/pdf/Digital_Health_Strategy.pdf

²¹ https://www.sanidad.gob.es/organizacion/sns/planCalidadSNS/docs/NHS_cancerStrategy.pdf

²² [Accesibilidad Cancer Strategy SNHS OK. ACCESIBLE.pdf](https://www.sanidad.gob.es/organizacion/sns/planCalidadSNS/docs/NHS_cancerStrategy.pdf)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		Furthermore, it emphasizes the need for direct accessibility of cancer care for patients and relatives which includes telephone, telematics, email or similar. ²³
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?	No	Spain has already integrated the Beating Cancer Plan in national strategy. ²⁴
Are there any indicators in eHealth policy or national programmes on cancer care measuring the progress of the use of eHealth in cancer care?	Yes	The 2024 digital decade eHealth indicator study performed for the European Commission provides information about Spain's maturity level in regard to eHealth. ²⁵
Are there any other cancer care specific eHealth initiatives, f.e. by other stakeholders than policy makers / public authorities?	Yes	Not at national level, but some regions have different initiatives like the Barcelona Health Digital Hub (BHH) to encourage and assist eHealth companies. ²⁶

Further information:

- No further information identified.

4 LEGISLATION

Table 4 : Overview on eHealth and cancer legislation - Spain

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a general legal framework covering eHealth related topics in your country?	Yes	<p>In general, competences for regulation of the health system are split between the national and regional levels. This requires definition of minimum requirements for implementation on the national level to be implemented by the 17 Autonomous Communities (ACs) responsible e.g. for <i>‘management of healthcare services, while the state retained competence over non-domestic healthcare and general coordination of the healthcare system’</i>.</p> <p>Telemedicine is permitted in Spain as it is not specifically prohibited in any regulation. It is also implicitly regulated by several frameworks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Royal Decree 81/2014 of 7 February²⁷ refers to telemedicine and cross-border medical care. Telemedicine is also mentioned in the Code of Ethics and in the Law 44/2003, of 21st November, on the Organisation of Health Services²⁸ (Código Deontológico y en la Ley de Ordenación de las Prestaciones Sanitarias (LOPS). • The National ePrescription Law (Royal Decree 1718/2010)²⁹ enables digital prescriptions.
Is there specific legislation on the use of telemedicine?	No	

²³ [Accesibilidad Cancer Strategy SNHS OK. ACCESIBLE.pdf](#)

²⁴ [Deployment of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan in Spain \(europa.eu\)](#)

²⁵ [Digital Decade 2025: Country reports | Shaping Europe's digital future](#)

²⁶ <https://barcelonahealthhub.com/about-bhh/>

²⁷ [BOE-A-2014-1331](#)

²⁸ [BOE-A-2003-21340](#)

²⁹ [BOE-A-2011-1013](#)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As for the processing of health data, it is regulated by Law 3/2018 of 5 December and the European Parliament Regulation 2016/679. The use of Electronic Health Records is regulated in several legislations.³⁰ Law 41/2002 for example references the protection of patient autonomy and governance of digital medical records. <p>Furthermore, the publication of the national Digital Health Law is expected by the end of 2026.</p>
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to cancer prevention?	No	There is no specific law or regulation regarding cancer prevention. There is however a law since July 2023 allowing cancer survivors' medical history to be forgotten after 5 years ³¹ , introduced by the Royal Decree-law 5/2023 ³² , of June 28. This is intended for anti-discriminatory purposes, e.g., when cancer survivors are applying for financial services.
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to / including eHealth in cancer care?	No	No further information available.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

³⁰ [Interim Report prepared by Milieu Ltd for the European Parliament under Service Contract IP/C/PETI/IC/2008-042 \(europa.eu\)](#)

³¹ [OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL - Ending Discrimination against Cancer Survivors](#)

³² [BOE-A-2023-15135](#)

5 CANCER SPECIFIC eHEALTH SOLUTIONS

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

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices	Other, please specify
Ecosystem	Yes, e.g., use of electronic prescriptions, appointments, Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) ³³	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prevention of Cancer	Yes, e.g., Cancer screening program ³⁴ ; Healthy lifestyles ³⁵ ; European Code Against Cancer ³⁶ ; Cancer Plan ³⁷	-	-	-	-	-	Yes, e.g., digital media advertising campaign ³⁸
Treatment of Cancer	No	-	-	Yes, in some hospitals, health professionals exchange information through teleconferences, for example, in tumour committees, or in the network of reference centres of the national health system (CSUR).	Yes, in the covid-19 pandemic, some hospitals established follow-up teleconsultations to reduce the risk of infection for cancer patients. Currently, most hospitals have returned to face-to-face follow-up consultations for cancer care. Telehealth platforms used in Spain are mainly private solutions such as Avia, Quiónsalud, Top Doctors,	-	-

³³ : Mahou, X.; Barral, B.; Fernández, Á.; Bouzas-Lorenzo, R.; Cernadas, A. eHealth and mHealth Development in Spain: Promise or Reality? Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2021, 18, 13055.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18241305>

³⁴ [Ministerio de Sanidad - Áreas - PROGRAMAS DE CRIBADO - CANCER - CRIBADO CANCER](#)

³⁵ <https://estilosdevidasaludable.sanidad.gob.es/>

³⁶ https://www.sanidad.gob.es/ciudadanos/enfLesiones/enfNoTransmisibles/docs/Codigo_Cancer.pdf

³⁷ https://www.sanidad.gob.es/organizacion/sns/planCalidadSNS/excelencia/map/codigoEuropeoContraElCancer/Espanol_Accesible.pdf

³⁸ <https://www.sanidad.gob.es/campañas/campanas21/CodigoEuropeoCancer.htm>

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices	Other, please specify
					virtual clinica. Salut Digital in Catalonia and SERGAS Digital in Galicia are public regional solutions. ³⁹		
'Living with cancer'	Yes, e.g., https://www.redescuelassalud.es/home.htm (cancer section)	-	Yes, some patient schools hold webinars targeted at cancer patients for health literacy	-	-	-	-
Rehabilitation from Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palliative Cancer Care	-	-	-	-	Yes, at regional level, some regions have teleconsultation programs to provide care 24/7	-	-

Further information:

- No further information identified.

³⁹ [Telehealth in Spain - Virtual clínica](#)

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

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?	N/A	The Digital Spain 2025 initiative foresees to empower patients with telemedicine tools, self-diagnosis and greater accessibility. ⁴⁰ Use of such solutions depends on the region: The Galician Health Service offers the mobile application "Sergas Móbil". In Andalusia there is a telemedicine platform for managing internal teleconsultations between primary care and hospital care professionals in use.
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	There are several websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer screening program⁴¹ • Healthy lifestyles⁴² • European Code Against Cancer⁴³ • Network of health schools for citizens⁴⁴ • Vaccination program of the National Health System⁴⁵
Can you give an estimation on how the split between private and public apps are available? Give an estimate percentage of public solutions.	N/A	There are no official data.
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?	N/A	There are no official data.
How many Health Care Providers use such solutions? Which sector uses rather which types of solutions?	N/A	There are no official data.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

⁴⁰ [Digital-Spain-2025.pdf \(espanadigital.gob.es\)](#), p. 60

⁴¹ [Ministerio de Sanidad - Áreas - PROGRAMAS DE CRIBADO - CANCER - CRIBADO CANCER](#)

⁴² <https://estilosdevidasaludable.sanidad.gob.es/>

⁴³ https://www.sanidad.gob.es/ciudadanos/enflesiones/enfNoTransmisibles/docs/Codigo_Cancer.pdf

⁴⁴ <https://www.redescuelassalud.es/home.htm>

⁴⁵ <https://www.sanidad.gob.es/areas/promocionPrevencion/vacunaciones/home.htm>