

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

This Country Factsheet was first prepared for the eCAN Joint Action and updated for the eCAN+ Joint Action. It is pre-filled 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 and reviewed in 2023/2024** with publicly available information by

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This country factsheet has been **updated** with publicly available information **in October 2025** and at the same time **reviewed** 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.

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1 DEFINITIONS

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

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.
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 ». ²	No deviation from definition.
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 ». ³ 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. » ⁴	No deviation from definition.
telehealth	The WHO defines telehealth broader than telemedicine « as it includes computer-assisted telecommunications to support management, surveillance, literature and access to medical knowledge. » ⁵	No deviation from definition.
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. » ⁶	No deviation from definition.
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. » ⁷	No deviation from definition.
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). »	No deviation from definition.

¹ WHO EMRO - eHealth

² mHealth Assessment: Conceptualization of a Global Framework - PMC (nih.gov), mHealth

³ Events - Smart4Health

⁴ Digital health EURO (who.int)

⁵ Telehealth – DigitalHealthEurope

⁶ Telemedicine – DigitalHealthEurope

⁷ <https://www3.paho.org/ish/images/docs/covid-19-teleconsultations-en.pdf?ua=1>

Further information:

- No further information identified.

2 GOVERNANCE

Table 2 : Overview on eHealth governance - Norway

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 Norwegian Directorate of Health is responsible for eHealth in Norway, it is an underlying agency to the Ministry of Health.
Does the Ministry who oversees health care also have a specific Department or Unit in charge of eHealth/dHealth?	Yes	The Ministry of Health does have a department for eHealth. ⁸
Is there a national eHealth governance board in place?	Yes	There is a national council model for eHealth. ⁹
Is there a public eHealth agency in place? At which level (national, regional)? Which functions does this agency cover?	Yes	There is a public eHealth agency on the national level (helsenorge.no). ¹⁰
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, mainly	Sometimes the patients, however, need to pay a deductible.
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, mainly	The reimbursement of telemedical consultations is in most cases included in the financing system of the specialist health care system, and for the GPs. In the primary health care system, as it is mostly block funded, it is in most cases not necessary for patients to pay extra for eHealth compared to standard treatment. There are some examples of welfare technology not defined as health care services – and for those, the citizens sometimes need to pay a deductible (for instance safety alarms in people's homes).
Are there any comprehensive cancer centres focussing on eHealth or telehealth treatments? If yes, which ones and for which specific fields?	Yes	Cancer care is well developed both in Norwegian municipalities and in the specialist health service. Oslo University Hospital OUS is the country's only Comprehensive Cancer Center, and they follow up a wide range of cancer diagnoses. ¹¹

Further information:

- No further information identified.

⁸ [E-helseavdelingen - regjeringen.no](https://www.helseavdelingen.no)

⁹ [Nasjonal rådsmoell - ehelse](https://www.nasjonalradsmoell.no)

¹⁰ [Helsenorge: Information in English - Helsenorge](https://www.helsenorge.no)

¹¹ <https://www.ous-research.no/home/ous/CCF/17820>

3 STRATEGIES/POLICIES

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

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a national eHealth strategy in place?	Yes	There is a national eHealth strategy (Nasional e-helsestrategi in Norwegian) in place. ¹²
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting the national eHealth strategy?	All relevant	All relevant healthcare authorities have been included in the making of the strategy in several ways, among others through the national council model. The strategy has also been through an extensive hearing before going public.
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 four regional health companies/authorities ¹³ in Norway and each of them has their own strategy (including eHealth) as well as an overall strategy for the regional health companies/authorities. ¹⁴ Annual assignment documents are provided. ¹⁵
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting such regional strategy/ies?	Varies	The inclusion of stakeholder groups varies from region to region.
Are there strategy/ies explicitly referring to / including eHealth cancer care?	Yes	There is a national cancer strategy, which also refers to eHealth and telemedicine, called "Joint efforts against cancer: National cancer strategy (2025–2035" ¹⁶ The use of technology is a central part of the development of Norwegian health and care services. The design of plans and strategies will largely be such that they take care of the diversity of diagnoses and conditions, including cancer. Generic solutions are central in a sustainability perspective and the national e-health strategy for the municipal health and care sector is an example of such a plan. ¹⁷ In the Norwegian context, there are also examples of more pointed plans and initiatives. Oslo University Hospital (OUS CCC) has developed a regional cancer strategy. Although the strategy does not refer directly to eHealth, there are points on home follow-up, home hospitals and digital interaction with patients.
If not, are there discussions ongoing to develop a national eHealth strategy?	N/A	See above
Is there a National Cancer Plan in place?	Yes	There is a national strategy called "Joint efforts against cancer: National cancer strategy (2025–2035". It refers to eHealth in several ways, for instance stressing the importance of using telemedicine and eHealth solutions in cancer care.
If yes, does the National Cancer Plan refer to eHealth?	Yes	
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?	Yes	The new cancer strategy has taken the EU cancer plans and cancer missions into consideration.
Are there any indicators in eHealth policy or national programmes on cancer care	No	No national quality indicators specifically on the use of eHealth in cancer care, but info on the use of eHealth in cancer care can be found in the national health registry. In

¹² [Nasional e-helsestrategi for helse- og omsorgssektoren - ehelse](#)

¹³ [Oversikt over landets helseforetak - regjeringen.no](#)

¹⁴ [Nasional helse- og sykehusplan 2020-2023 - regjeringen.no](#)

¹⁵ [Oppdragsdokument - regjeringen.no](#)

¹⁶ <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/felles-innsats-mot-kreft.-nasjonal-kreftstrategi-20252035/id3087629/>

¹⁷ [Nasional e-helsestrategi for helse- og omsorgssektoren - ehelse](#)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
measuring the progress of the use of eHealth in cancer care?		general, there are some indicators measuring the use of eHealth solutions, for instance in our results-based finance system, but these are both for cancer patients and other patients.
Are there any other cancer care specific eHealth initiatives, f.e. by other stakeholders than policy makers / public authorities?	Yes	There are many ongoing and planned projects, ventures and initiatives in the area of cancer. Several of these contain greater or lesser elements of technology use. These initiatives can be found both within the specialist health service, research environments, technology environments, interest organizations and in combinations of collaboration between these actors.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

4 LEGISLATION

Table 4 : Overview on eHealth and cancer legislation – Norway

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a general legal framework covering eHealth related topics in your country?	Yes	In general, eHealth is covered by the ‘ordinary’ health legislation.
Is there specific legislation on the use of telemedicine?	Yes	There is legislation on telemedicine/eHealth ¹⁸ , but no separate law on the topic.
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to cancer prevention?	Yes	There is legislation on cancer prevention (e.g., tobacco and alcohol legislation) ¹⁹ , but no separate law on the topic.
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to / including eHealth in cancer care?	No	There are several laws (for example the Public Health Act) which aim to prevent health damage, including cancer, but cancer is not explicitly mentioned in any law apart from the tobacco and alcohol legislation which indirectly helps to prevent cancer.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

5 CANCER SPECIFIC eHEALTH SOLUTIONS

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

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary tele-conferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices	Other, please specify
Ecosystem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prevention of Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Treatment of Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
‘Living with cancer’	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹⁸ [Relevante lover og forskrifter - ehelse](#)

¹⁹ [Sentrale lover og forskrifter \(kreftregisteret.no\)](#)

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary tele-conferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices	Other, please specify
Rehabilitation from Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palliative Cancer Care	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Further information:

- No further information identified.

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

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	No further information available.
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)?	N/A	No further information available.
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	No further information available.
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?	No	There is no specific certification for cancer e-health tools, however a general system for CE-marking of medical equipment, also e-health related is in place. The Directorate of Medical Products is responsible for the CE-markings in Norway.
How many Health Care Providers use such solutions? Which sector uses rather which types of solutions?	N/A	No further information available.

Further information:

- No further information identified.