

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

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 (EHDS) 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.

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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 - Sweden

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	Minor deviation: eHealth is the use of digital tools and the digital exchange of information to achieve and maintain health. (National Board of Health and Welfare)
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 apparent use of the short term dHealth. Sweden does not distinguish between eHealth and dHealth.
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.

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>

Term	Definition	Deviation
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.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

2 GOVERNANCE

Table 2 : Overview on eHealth governance - Sweden

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 and Social Affairs is responsible for issues concerning social welfare, such as public health, health care and care of older people as well as health data, eHealth, and life sciences.
Does the Ministry who oversees health care also have a specific Department or Unit in charge of eHealth/dHealth?	Yes	The Swedish eHealth Agency coordinates the government's eHealth initiatives and monitors developments in the eHealth field, both nationally and internationally. It is also responsible for registers and IT services linked to e-prescriptions used by individuals, healthcare providers and pharmacies.
Is there a national eHealth governance board in place?	Yes	Digital infrastructure is a central part of the government's digitalization policy. The Swedish Agency for Digital Government, together with several other agencies, has been tasked with establishing a joint management of digital infrastructure for information exchange as well as a national framework for basic data. To complement this, the Swedish eHealth Agency has the task of establishing a sector specific framework for the health care and social welfare area. To support this the Agency has established and chairs (i) the Strategic Coordination Group for National Digital Infrastructure for Health, Care and Welfare, and (ii) the National Council for Interoperability.
Is there a public eHealth agency in place? At which level (national, regional)? Which functions does this agency cover?	Yes	The Swedish eHealth Agency is a government agency that works to digitalize and improve the sharing of information between patients, the healthcare system, and pharmacies in Sweden. It offers several eHealth services for individuals as well as health professionals, such as the e-prescription services. The Swedish eHealth Agency, which is under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, coordinates the government's initiatives in eHealth and overall monitor developments in the eHealth area (ordinance (2013:1031) with instructions for the eHealth authority). ⁸ As preparation for the EHDS Regulation the Agency leads a number of government assignments for a developed national digital infrastructure of the healthcare sector.
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	Yes	The provision of health care, regardless of in what way, is mainly tax-funded, financed by the regions and municipalities, and government

⁸ <https://www.ehalsomyndigheten.se/languages/english/welcome-to-the-swedish-ehealth-agency/>

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
covered in your benefits package (e.g. by sickness fund or national health service)? If yes, please describe how.		grants. It is also financed to some extent by patient fees. Digital tools are provided by the regions and municipalities, as well as by a number of private healthcare providers.
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?	No	See previous answer.
Are there any comprehensive cancer centres focussing on eHealth or telehealth treatments? If yes, which ones and for which specific fields?	Yes	Sweden has five certified CCCs (2025). Since eHealth is an integrated part of Swedish health care, they all use tools for information and communication technologies, patient monitoring devices, personal digital assistants, and health-related apps to monitor and manage lifestyle-habits that impact health.

Further information:

- The healthcare sector is subject to the rules and requirements set out in the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (2018:218) supplementing the GDPR.
- In addition, healthcare providers and employees working in healthcare are subject to rules on secrecy and confidentiality (including professional secrecy) set out in the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400), the Patient Safety Act (2010:659), the Patient Data Act (2008:355), the Health and Medical Services Act (2017:30), the National Medication List Act (2018:1212), and the Pharmacy Data Act (2009:367). In the Penal Code (1962:700), there are provisions imposing penalties for breach of professional secrecy (including by healthcare professionals).
- The recently implemented Act (2022:913) on Integrated Health and Social Care Documentation (Lag (2022:913) om sammanhållen vård- och omsorgsdokumentation) has the objective to facilitate sharing of relevant health data in a given health or social care situation.
- There is an ongoing adjustment of national legislation, to be aligned with the EHDS Regulation.

3 STRATEGIES/POLICIES

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

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a national eHealth strategy in place?	Yes	The Swedish government has launched several strategies bearing on the eHealth area. These include the Digitization Strategy (Ministry of Infrastructure), the Standardization Strategy (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and a roadmap towards a Life Science strategy (Ministry of Business and Industry). All these strategies address issues of interoperability and the importance of common standards, but also the need for coordination. ⁹ As a consequence of the EHDS Regulation the government has given the Swedish eHealth Agency the assignment to develop a national digital infrastructure for healthcare, social care, and dental care.
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting the national eHealth strategy?	Various	

⁹ <https://ehalsa2025.se/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Strategin-for-genomforande-av-vision-ehalsa-for-2020-2022.pdf> and <https://www.vardanalys.se/rapporter/granslosa-mojligheter-granslosa-utmaningar/>

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		In the establishing of the national strategies mentioned above, as well as the roadmap for national digital infrastructure, the government and its responsible agencies have had, and continues to have a dialogue and when appropriate also a cooperation with all the concerned stakeholders, such as patient associations, health care providers and their representatives e.g. in the form of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), the health professions' associations, academia and others.
Are there regional eHealth strategies? If so, can you indicate whether in all regions or only some? Can you provide some (exemplary) documents ?	Yes	In Sweden, the healthcare system is decentralized, run either by the respective regions or municipalities. Every county council or municipality is responsible for managing and prioritizing its own healthcare resources. As a result, the type of healthcare services available may vary as well as strategies. SALAR (see above) together with the 21 regions in Sweden recently presented the following 10-point plan: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National roadmap for digital health services 2. Legislation enabling interoperability and information sharing 3. National frameworks and standards 4. National digital proxy/representation services 5. Secure Digital Communication (SDK) across all public actors 6. Integration with the National Medication List (NLL) and shared medication data 7. Coordinated national architecture for health information exchange 8. Shared national solutions for identity and access management 9. National support for implementing new digital health systems 10. Health data and AI for service development, research, and crisis preparedness
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting such regional strategy/ies?	Various	See above, may vary between regions but can also be coordinated by SALAR.
Are there strategy/ies explicitly referring to / including eHealth cancer care?	Yes	The recently published proposal for a National cancer strategy touches upon eHealth (digital health), for instance by pointing at the need for harmonized decisions on access to health data e.g. through the implementation of a national digital infrastructure. Also see above, with regard to part of the regional and SALAR plans.
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	National cancer strategy, however, not explicit on eHealth strategy. (See previous answer above, as well as below).
If yes, does the National Cancer Plan refer to eHealth?	Yes	The cancer strategy does not mention eHealth specifically but talks about the value of digital tools, for patients as well as for health professionals.
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	In a comprehensive revision of the previous cancer strategy from 2009, the Swedish government decided in January 2026 on an updated national cancer strategy. ¹⁰
Are there any indicators in eHealth policy or national programmes on	No	No further information available.

¹⁰ [Ökad överlevnad och bättre livskvalitet – nationell cancerstrategi 2.0 - Regeringen.se](https://www.regeringen.se/491099)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
cancer care measuring the progress of the use of eHealth in cancer care?		
Are there any other cancer care specific eHealth initiatives, f.e. by other stakeholders than policy makers / public authorities?	Yes	Smaller initiatives in different regions. When it comes to health apps for individual use to detect or monitor cancer, there are a number of initiatives from the private sector.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

4 LEGISLATION

Table 4 : Overview on eHealth and cancer legislation - Sweden

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a general legal framework covering eHealth related topics in your country?	No	There is no specific law that regulates the provision of digital health services. Healthcare organizations, including, inter alia, conventional clinics and hospitals as well as digi-physical services and online medical consultation services, are considered healthcare providers, and in general the same rules apply to conventional healthcare and digital healthcare. In addition, Sweden is preparing for implementing the EHDS legislation.
Is there specific legislation on the use of telemedicine?	Yes	The regulatory aspect of using telemedicine is related to the following legislative framework. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient data act (SFS 2008: 355) • Patient data Regulation (SFS 2008:360) • The National Board of Health and Welfare’s regulations and general guidelines concerning patient records and processing of personal data within healthcare (HSLF-FS 2016:40) • The National Board of Health and Welfare’s regulation and general guidelines concerning management system for systematic quality of work (SOSFS 2011:9) The National Board of Health and Welfare’s regulation on the use of medical devices in healthcare (HSLF-FS 2021:52).
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to cancer prevention?	No	Not according to the National Cancer Control Plan Survey.
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to / including eHealth in cancer care?	No	See above; There is no specific law that regulates the provision of digital health services.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

5 CANCER SPECIFIC eHEALTH SOLUTIONS

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

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices
Ecosystem	Yes, for example, access to personal health data/record, medical prescription insights, data for science etc. but within each region	Yes, for example, reminder systems in general. All patients can access their eHealth record online or through an app.	Yes, for educational purpose and for information	Yes, cross-regional and national MDTs that are based on teleconferencing	Yes, frequently used as a supplement to in person consultation.	Yes, widely used in cardiology and diabetes, but not yet in cancer care. Developed in project form.
Prevention of Cancer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Treatment of Cancer	Yes	Yes, e.g. https://nyheter.ki.se/mobilapp-minskade-upplevda-symtom-hos-patienter-med-brostdcancer and https://nyheter.ki.se/ny-halsoapp-for-att-framja-halsosamma-livsstilsbeteenden	Yes	Yes, such as tumor boards	Yes	No
'Living with cancer'	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Rehabilitation from Cancer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Palliative Cancer Care	Yes	Yes, https://palliativtutvecklingscentrum.se/digitala-varldosningar-till-patienter-med-palliativa-vardbehov/	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Further information:

- No further information identified.

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

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?	About 400,000 (estimation)	No registry and no clear definition of what should be included, except for medical devices (in general) that are registered at the Medical Products Agency. The EHDS Regulation will in the future contribute to specific national registers for electronic health record systems as well as some wellness applications.
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)?	No	Health apps are relatively unregulated unless they are classified as a medical device. In some cases, medical health apps are prescribed. Before that is possible, a solid evaluation and quality assurance takes place. The health app's area of use determines which regulations and quality requirements apply. There are standards and frameworks for medical devices. Technical and semantic standards are missing for health apps. There is no equivalent quality assurance for health apps in the lifestyle and security apps. See also above regarding the EHDS Regulation.
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	Both are available, and private healthcare and associated apps are often provided on assignment by regions.
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?	Yes, however not covering all aspects	There are upwards of half a million health apps on the market. The majority of these lack CE marking because they are not considered medical devices. If the app provides health advice, unrelated to disease or medical treatment, it is a 'health app' that is not regulated by any specific legislation linked to patient safety. If the app has a medical purpose (for example, to diagnose, prevent, monitor, treat or alleviate a disease), it is considered a medical device. That type of app must have a CE mark. The Swedish Medical Products Agency is the supervisory authority for medical devices. ¹¹
How many Health Care Providers use such solutions? Which sector uses rather which types of solutions?	No	No further information available.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

¹¹ [Assignment | Swedish Medical Products Agency | Läkemedelsverket](#)