

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

This Country Factsheet was prepared 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.

eCAN is a Joint Action (JA) of 16 partners in EU-Member States on ‘Strengthening eHealth including telemedicine and remote monitoring for health care systems for cancer prevention and care’. eCAN aims to bring the benefits of eHealth to all citizens and patients across EU-Member States (MS) focusing on cancer prevention and care. There is a need to harmonize telemedicine regulations and to explore the efficacy of teleconsultation programs and telemonitoring in the cancer field.

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

The country factsheet includes chapters on:

1 definition

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 GERMANY

1 DEFINITIONS

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

| Term | Definition | Deviation |
|---------|--|--|
| eHealth | The WHO defines eHealth as « the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for health ». It also says that « eHealth is the transfer of health resources and healthcare by electronic means. » ¹ | No deviation from the definition. German MoH defines eHealth accordingly. 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 the definition. Even if there is no uniform definition of the term 'mobile health' used in Germany, ⁴ the CHARISMHA study ⁵ 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 ». ⁶ 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 | Term not widely used in Germany, and if so synonymously with the term eHealth ⁸ or in combination with the term 'apps'. |

¹ 6. eHealth, Factsheet for European Parliament (who.int)

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

³ World Health Organization *Frequently asked questions on Global Task Force on digital health for TB and its work.* [2017-02-27]. <http://www.who.int/tb/areas-of-work/digital-health/faq/en/> website. In *mHealth Assessment: Conceptualization of a Global Framework - PMC (nih.gov)*

⁴ https://www.bvdw.org/fileadmin/bvdw/upload/publikationen/digital-commerce/201611_ES_BVDW_Leitfaden_Mobile_Health_2016.pdf

⁵ https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Berichte/Abschlussbericht_CHARISMHA.pdf

⁶ [Events - Smart4Health](#)

⁸ [bidw-positionspapier-zum-thema-e-health-digital-health.pdf \(bmw.de\)](#)

| Term | Definition | Deviation |
|------------------|--|--|
| | for health such as the Internet of things, artificial intelligence, big data and robotics. » ⁷ | |
| Telehealth | The WHO defines telehealth broader than telemedicine « as it includes computer-assisted telecommunications to support management, surveillance, literature and access to medical knowledge. » ⁹ | 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. » ¹⁰ | No deviation from the definition. German MoH uses the term telemedicine accordingly as "Telemedizin". ¹¹ |
| 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. » ¹² | 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). ¹³ Another document also refers to the term 'Videosprechstunde' in this context. ¹⁴ |
| 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). » | 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). ¹⁵ |

⁷ Digital health EURO (who.int)

⁹ Telehealth – DigitalHealthEurope

¹⁰ Telemedicine – DigitalHealthEurope

¹¹ Telemedizin (bundesgesundheitsministerium.de)

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

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

¹⁴ https://www.g-ba.de/downloads/39-261-5834/2023-01-19_HeilM-RL_Verordnungen-Fernbehandlung_BAnz.pdf

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

Further information:

- A study for the further development of the eHealth strategy provides a definitory framework for eHealth terms in Germany.¹⁶
- Several online eHealth glossaries are available.¹⁷

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? If so, which Ministry ? | Yes | The Federal Ministry of Health is responsible for eHealth on the national level. ¹⁸ |
| Does the Ministry who is in charge of 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. ¹⁹ |
| Is there a national eHealth governance board? | No | There is no national eHealth governance board in Germany. But a working group on eHealth. ²⁰ In addition, there is a general health board (Sachverständigenrat, SVR). ²¹ |
| Is there a public eHealth agency such as Elga GmbH in Austria or ANS in France? At which level (national, regional)? Which functions does this agency cover? | Yes | There is the national agency for digital medicine ²² « Gematik » (Nationale Agentur für Digitale Medizin). It covers the following functions including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overall responsibility for the telematics infrastructure (TI), the central platform for digital applications in the German healthcare system, • national and international mediation and consultancy, • exchange and cooperation with other agencies internationally, • centre of competence and coordination for interoperability. It also covers applications including (see more on the website) ²³ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ePrescription, • electronic patient record, • eMedication Plan, • (digital) communication in medicine. |

¹⁶ [BMG-Weiterentwicklung der eHealth-Strategie-Abschlussfassung.pdf \(bundesgesundheitsministerium.de\)](https://www.bmg.de/medien/weiterentwicklung-der-ehealth-strategie-abschlussfassung.pdf)

¹⁷ <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 (chapter 8)

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

¹⁹ https://www.bmbf.de/bmbf/de/ueber-uns/aufgaben-und-aufbau/die-organisation-des-hauses/die-organisation-des-hauses_node.html

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

²¹ [Start - SVR Gesundheit \(svr-gesundheit.de\)](https://www.svr-gesundheit.de)

²² <https://www.gematik.de/>

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

| Question | Answer | Comments/Experience |
|---|--|---|
| 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. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ In addition, the ‘tumour conference’ is the special focus of telemedical solutions for cancer centres in Germany. ²⁶ |

Further information:

- A recent report of McKinsey describes the structure and functions of eHealth in Germany.²⁷

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? | Yes | There is a national eHealth strategy in place. ²⁸ |
| 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. ²⁹ The public kick-off for this participation process took place in September 2022 with the participation of the Federal Minister of Health, Prof. Dr. Karl Lauterbach. In parallel, in-depth background discussions were held with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experts from the health care sector as well as from |

²⁴ [Use of teleconsultations | Health at a Glance: Europe 2022 : State of Health in the EU Cycle | OECD iLibrary \(oecd-ilibrary.org\)](#);

²⁵ [Telemedizin in der Onkologie: Qualität verbessern – aber wie? | SpringerLink](#)

²⁶ 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>

²⁷ [ehealth monitor 2020.pdf \(mckinsey.de\)](#)

²⁸ <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/topics/digitalisation/digitalisation-strategy.html>;

https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/3_Downloads/D/Digitalisierungsstrategie/BMG_Broschuere_Digitalisierungsstrategie_bf.pdf; [BMG Gemeinsam Digital – Digitalisierungsstrategie für das Gesundheitswesen und die Pflege \(bundesgesundheitsministerium.de\)](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de)

²⁹ <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/themen/digitalisierung/digitalisierungsstrategie/wie-wurden-die-inhalte-der-digitalisierungsstrategie-erarbeitet.html>

| Question | Answer | Comments/Experience |
|---|----------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administration, • science, • business • representatives of patients, • people in need of care and their relatives, • stakeholders in the health and care system, • representatives from the field. |
| Are there regional eHealth strategies? If so, can you indicate whether in all regions or only some? Can you provide some documents? | Yes | Several regions (<i>Bundesländer</i>) have regional eHealth strategies in place. ³⁰ |
| 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 | <p>Within the German Digitalisation Strategy, there is a mention of <i>'Minimization of Radiation exposure', 'Robot-assisted coronary intervention systems can reduce radiation exposure during the operation for the cardiologist.'</i></p> <p>One of the Strategy aims mentions in 'IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CARE': <i>'The digitisation strategy makes an important contribution to the improvement of the quality of care by diagnostics, treatment, care and nursing care through consistent through the consistent use of data, digitally optimised processes and the demand-oriented and the use of digital applications as needed.'</i> And <i>'General and individual health and care risks can be identified more quickly and targeted measures can be measures can be taken in a timely manner, for example in the targeted treatment of diseases such as cancer or in combating pandemics.'</i></p> <p>Cancer and eHealth/data is mentioned on page 28 in the context of the cancer registry: <i>'In a first stage, a part of the cancer registry data of the of the federal states will be brought together at the Centre for Cancer Registry Data at the Robert Koch Institute. In second stage, all cancer registry data will be merged on an ad hoc basis and linked with other data via a common platform and made accessible.'</i></p> |
| If not, are there discussions ongoing to develop a national eHealth strategy? | No | No further information available. |
| Is there a National Cancer Plan? And does it refer to eHealth? | Yes & No | The German National Cancer Plan (NCP) ³¹ 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 |

³⁰ <https://www.ehealth-in-hessen.de/Start> and <https://gesundheit-wird-digital.de/> and <https://www.gesundheit-digital.nrw/>

³¹ <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 |
|--|--------|--|
| | | <p>and providers as well as patient representatives were involved. . The NCP has focused on the following fields of action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further development of early cancer detection • Further development of oncological care structures and quality assurance • Ensuring efficient oncological treatment (initial focus on oncological drug therapy) • Strengthening patient orientation. <p>The NCP and its thematic priorities are currently under review not least in light of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan". Interoperability and data are set to be priority areas in the revised German NCP. However, specific projects on eHealth with cancer as use-case are not included.</p> |
| <p>In light of the EU „Beating Cancer Plan” – are there any recent plans to update or modify existing plans? If yes, what is the timeline?</p> | N/A | <p>Please see above comment. The NCP is on-going. There is no fixed time-line.</p> |
| <p>Are there any indicators in eHealth policy or national programmes on cancer care measuring the progress of the use of eHealth in cancer care?</p> | N/A | <p>Regarding the National Cancer Plan please see above answer.</p> |
| <p>Are there any other cancer care specific eHealth initiatives, f.e. by other stakeholders than policy makers / public authorities?</p> | Yes | <p>There are several other initiatives such as e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital gegen Krebs³² or • The interoperability directory (Vesta)³³ 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.³⁴ • The Robert Bosch Foundation (Robert Bosch Stiftung) is active in the topic.³⁵ |

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

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

³⁴ https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-662-58225-1_11

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

4 LEGISLATION

Table 4 : Overview on eHealth and cancer legislation - Germany

| Question | Answer | Comments/Experience |
|--|------------|--|
| How would you evaluate the current state of legislation of eHealth in your country in general? | In process | There are several legislative changes in process/planned. |
| Is there legislation on how to use telemedicine in general? | Yes | <p>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).³⁶</p> <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 2015.³⁷</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"> • the Appointment Service and Supply Act (TSVG), • the Act for More Security in the Supply of Medicines (GSAV), • the Digital Supply Act (DVG), • the Patient Data Protection Act (PDSG), • the Digital Supply and Care Modernisation Act (DVPMG), • the Digitalisation Act (Digitalgesetz, DigiG). |
| Is there legislation explicitly referring to cancer prevention? | Yes | <p>The Cancer Screening and Registries Act of 2013³⁸ 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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>The “Unified Collection and Merging of Cancer Registry Data Act”³⁹ 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.</p> |

³⁶ https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/sgb_5/

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

³⁸ 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

³⁹ https://www.bgbl.de/xaver/bgbl/start.xav?startbk=Bundesanzeiger_BGBI&start=//**%5B@attr_id=%27bgbl121s3890.pdf%27%5D#_bgbl_%2F%2F%5B%40attr_id%3D%27bgbl121s3890.pdf%27%5D_1686312276226

| Question | Answer | Comments/Experience |
|--|--------|--|
| | | <p>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 2019⁴⁰. The former guaiac-based gFOBT was replaced by quantitative immunological iFOBTs in April 2017.</p> <p>A nation-wide organised quality-assured cervical cancer screening programme was introduced on 1 January 2020. Since then women aged 35 years and over are entitled to a combined three-yearly examination comprising a pap smear and an HPV-test⁴¹.</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. From 1 July 2024 Germany will implement the extension of the upper age limit of the mammography-screening-programme from 69 to 75 years.⁴² Furthermore, Germany currently prepares for the introduction of a low dose CT for lung cancer screening for heavy and former heavy smokers.⁴³</p> |
| Is there legislation explicitly referring to / including eHealth cancer care? | No | No indications of such a law were identified. |
| If yes, which of these legislation(s) do you consider most important in the context of eHealth and cancer care? And why? | N/A | No further information available. |
| If no, are there any particular reasons or barriers to the fact that there is no or only limited cancer specific eHealth legislation (i.e., discussions still ongoing, conflicting opinions or other). | No | Legislation is meant to be abstract in nature. Legislation related to eHealth thus covers all potential diseases and treatments. Cancer is therefore included in current legislation. |
| What could be improved or would need to be done to improve these legislations for eHealth in cancer care in your country? | N/A | No further information available. |

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

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

⁴² <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 Früherkennungsprogramm an - Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss>

⁴³ [BMUV: Bundesumweltministerium lässt künftig Lungenkrebsfrüherkennung mittels Niedrigdosis-Computertomographie zu | Pressemitteilung; Früherkennung von Lungenkrebs bei Raucherinnen und Rauchern: G-BA nimmt Beratungen auf - Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss](#)

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 |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ecosystem | Yes, there is a German eHealth platform ⁴⁴ | Yes, e.g. myoncare application ⁴⁵ | - | - | - | - |
| Prevention of Cancer | - | Yes, two for breast cancer, see DiGA index ⁴⁶ | - | - | - | - |
| Treatment of Cancer | Yes, e.g., P2ortal: Patient portal for oncology patients and others. ⁴⁷ | Yes, e.g., Software and Patient App <i>DTB - der Digitale Therapiebegleiter in der Onkologie</i> ⁴⁸ ; Concretely on cancer care treatment Tino DTB app ⁴⁹ | - | 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. ⁵⁰ | - | - |
| 'Living with cancer' | - | Yes, e.g., DTB der Digitale Therapiebegleiter in der Onkologie ⁵¹ ; CANKADO Pro-react Onco App on prescription ⁵² ; Optimune ⁵³ – Breast cancer App; Pink – breast cancer app ⁵⁴ | - | - | - | - |
| Rehabilitation from Cancer | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Palliative Cancer Care | - | - | - | - | - | - |

⁴⁴ [Telehealth Germany's e-Health Platform](#)

⁴⁵ [myoncare | vesta Informationsportal \(vesta-gematik.de\)](#)

⁴⁶ [DiGA-Verzeichnis \(bfarm.de\)](#)

⁴⁷ [Patientenportal - Patienten als Versorgungslotsen in eigener Sache | vesta Informationsportal \(vesta-gematik.de\)](#)

⁴⁸ <https://tino-dtb.de/>

⁴⁹ [Tino DTB: Die App bei Krebs für Patienten und Ärzte – Tino DTB \(tino-dtb.de\)](#)

⁵⁰ [AMP.clinic - Awesome Technologies \(awesome-technologies.de\)](#)

⁵¹ <https://tino-dtb.de/>

⁵² <https://diga.cankado.com/>

⁵³ <https://diga.bfarm.de/de/verzeichnis/01613>

⁵⁴ <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) ⁵⁵ 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). ⁵⁶ The Charisma Study ⁵⁷ 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 ⁵⁸ , 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. 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. |

⁵⁵ <https://diga.bfarm.de/de> and <https://diga.bfarm.de/de/verzeichnis?search=Krebs>

⁵⁶ [Projekte & Anwendungen | www.informationsportal.vesta-gematik.de](https://www.informationsportal.vesta-gematik.de)

⁵⁷ https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Berichte/Abschlussbericht_CHARISMHA.pdf

⁵⁸ Medizinproduktegesetz: https://www.bfarm.de/DE/Medizinprodukte/Ueberblick/Gesetze-und-Verordnungen/_node.html