

## POLICY MAPPING ON EHEALTH POLICIES AND INITIATIVES (INCLUDING ON CANCER CARE) IN **ITALY**

This Country Factsheet was prepared for the eCAN Joint Action. It is prefilled with publicly available information and was sent for validation 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.

This country factsheet has been **pre-filled** with publicly available information by

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

The pre-filled country factsheet was **not validated** by contacted country experts.

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](mailto:ecan@goeg.at).

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

## 1 DEFINITIONS

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

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. » <sup>1</sup>	No deviation from definition. Synonymous terms in Italian used are 'Sanita Digitale' or 'sanita elettronica'. <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>	Yes, partly deviating, as the devices listed are slightly different. Translation of the Italian Definition in a document by presidency of the council of ministries and the committee of bioethics: <i>'The term 'mobile-health' or 'm-health' generally refers to the set of 'mobile' technologies, i.e. the use of wireless communication (mobile phones and smartphones, tablets, digital devices, with or without wearable sensors), applied in healthcare or health-related fields.'</i> <sup>4</sup>
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>5</sup> 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. » <sup>6</sup>	Yes, it seems that the term 'dHealth' is not in use or commonly used in Italy. Given that the term 'eHealth' is also translated into 'digital Health' it is hard to find any sort of clear, arbitrary distinction between the two terms. According to <a href="#">Compare &amp; Research   ICLG</a> there is no « Legal definition » of digital Health in Italy. It seems that the term or articles/news related to 'digital health' however does also encompass other uses of digital technologies and that the term is perhaps 'expandable'. Many articles on 'digital health' (but never 'dHealth') include informations on Big Data and AI. One article on recent projects by the Italian MoH defines 'Digital Health' as <i>'made up of various elements, often interpreted with telemedicine, which is, however, only one facet, perhaps the most obvious aspect of a broad and complex mechanism behind it, explained Antonio Vittorino Gaddi, Sit president: 'Technology in medicine means both robotics,</i>

<sup>1</sup> [6. eHealth, Factsheet for European Parliament \(who.int\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [eHealth - Sanita digitale \(salute.gov.it\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> 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/> *webcite*. In *mHealth Assessment: Conceptualization of a Global Framework - PMC (nih.gov)*

<sup>4</sup> [https://bioetica.governo.it/media/1805/p121\\_2015\\_mobile-health\\_it.pdf](https://bioetica.governo.it/media/1805/p121_2015_mobile-health_it.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [Events - Smart4Health](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Digital health EURO \(who.int\)](#)

Term	Definition	Deviation
		<p><i>precision surgery and complex instruments, and everyday interventions on logistics and diagnostics</i><sup>7</sup></p> <p>In one article ‘digital Health’ (Italian: ‘salute digitale’), and ‘eHealth’ are used interchangeably and digital health is described as (translated) <i>‘where digital technologies meet the personal health, wellness and healthcare sector.’</i><sup>8</sup></p>
telehealth	<p>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></p>	<p>Yes, there seems to be no official definition of telehealth in Italy, (different articles use different definitions). The literal translation, ‘telesalute’ is defined as a ‘sub-service’ of telemedicine (translated)<sup>10</sup>: <i>‘Telehealth provides a personalised care service that puts patients (especially the chronically ill or elderly) in direct contact with their doctor, who assists them in diagnosis, monitoring of vital parameters, and management of the care pathway, through remote telemonitoring of their vital parameters. The recording and transmission of data can be automated or carried out by the patient themselves or by a health professional, and this mode of interaction involves an active role of the physician and the patient.’</i></p> <p>Another article states that the term ‘sanita virtuale’ (virtual health) is often used as a synonym for both telehealth and telemedicine.<sup>11</sup></p>
telemedicine	<p>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>12</sup></p>	<p>No deviation from definition.</p>
teleconsultation	<p>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>13</sup></p>	<p>No deviation from definition.</p>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.agensir.it/quotidiano/2022/12/19/digital-health-presentati-i-nuovi-progetti-al-ministero-della-salute-gaddi-sit-robotica-chirurgia-di-precisione-ma-anche-logistica-e-diagnostica-a-marzo-un-documento/>

<sup>8</sup> Digital Health: cos'è, vantaggi e mondo insurance (insuranceup.it)

<sup>9</sup> Telehealth – DigitalHealthEurope

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.digital4.biz/executive/digital-transformation/telemedicina-che-cosa-e-definizione-tecnologie-adozione-in-italia/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.digital4.biz/executive/digital-transformation/telemedicina-che-cosa-e-definizione-tecnologie-adozione-in-italia/>

<sup>12</sup> Telemedicine – DigitalHealthEurope

<sup>13</sup> <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 <a href="https://www.iso.org/standard/78182.html">https://www.iso.org/standard/78182.html</a> (2021), p 5). »	No deviation from definition. There seems to be no official legal definition and in the document on mHealth <sup>14</sup> the distinction is made between ‘wellness apps’ and ‘ <i>medical health applications in the field of prevention (devices to record physiological functions such as heartbeat breathing, blood pressure, temperature, brain activity, etc.), diagnosis (e.g. melanoma diagnosis), treatment of diseases (e.g. medical remainder for improving improve therapy adherence, calculation of medicine dosage, monitoring of metabolic diseases), for assistance (e.g. assistance to disabled with motor limitations)</i> ’.

## 2 GOVERNANCE

Table 2 : Overview on eHealth governance - Italy

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a Ministry or State Secretariat explicitly in charge of eHealth/dHealth? If so, which Ministry ?	Yes	Yes, the Ministry of Health as well as the Ministry of technology deal with eHealth. And a Ministry of innovation and technology and digitalization was in place previously.
Does the Ministry who oversees health care also have a specific Department or Unit in charge of eHealth/dHealth	Yes	In the Ministry of Health there is the ‘Direzione generale della digitalizzazione, del sistema informativo sanitario e della statistica’ (Directorate-General for Digitisation, Health Information System and Statistics) specifically Ufficio 3 (office 3) which oversees eHealth. <sup>15</sup> There is also the Department for digital transformation (Dipartimento per la trasformazione digitale) managing topics such as digital health (sanita digitale). <sup>16</sup>
Is there a national eHealth governance board?	Unclear	A national eHealth board was established in 2004 and produced several documents in the following years, however, it is not clear if it is still operating today. The latest document mentioning the eHealth Board seems to be from 2010 and mentions that ‘ <i>the permanent e-Health Board (in Italian, Tavolo di lavoro permanente per la Sanità Elettronica or TSE) was established in 2004. It was a joint initiative by the Health Ministry as well as the Ministry of Reforms and Innovations in Public Administration. The TSE provides the forum and setting for technical consultations to harmonise national and regional e-Health policies in Italy, and to coordinate the implementation of e-Health action plans. Technical issues of direct concern are standards to represent collaborative healthcare</i>

<sup>14</sup> [https://bioetica.governo.it/media/1805/p121\\_2015\\_mobile-health\\_it.pdf](https://bioetica.governo.it/media/1805/p121_2015_mobile-health_it.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Direzione generale della digitalizzazione, del sistema informativo sanitario e della statistica (salute.gov.it) and Ufficio 3 - Sistema informativo sanitario nazionale - Direzione generale della digitalizzazione, del sistema informativo sanitario e della statistica (salute.gov.it)  
[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/ministro/p4\\_5\\_2\\_4\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=uffCentrali&label=uffCentrali&id=1158](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/ministro/p4_5_2_4_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=uffCentrali&label=uffCentrali&id=1158)

<sup>16</sup> <https://innovazione.gov.it/>

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		<i>delivery processes, data formats for electronic documents exchanged in the healthcare system</i> . <sup>17</sup>
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	<p>The AgID Agency for 'Digital Healthcare' (Agenzia per L'italia digitale) is the technical agency of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Therefore, it functions on the national level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main purpose of the Agency is to guarantee the achievement of the Italian digital agenda objectives and contribute to the diffusion of information and communication technologies, with the aim of fostering innovation and economic growth.</li> <li>• AgID has the task of coordinating public administrations in the implementation of the Three-Year Plan for information technology in Public Administration.</li> <li>• AgID supports digital innovation and promotes the dissemination of digital skills, also in collaboration with international, national and local institutions and bodies.<sup>18</sup></li> </ul> <p>There is also similarly to ELGA in Austria, the 'Fascicolo Sanitario Elettronico (FSE)<sup>19</sup>' providing for the electronic health record in Italy (Similar to ELGA): This is the tool through which citizens can trace, consult and share their health history. The standard establishes that the FSE infrastructure manages all the health and social-health data and digital documents generated by present and past clinical events concerning the patient.</p> <p>The Electronic Health Record is established by the Regions and Autonomous Provinces, in compliance with the regulations in force on the protection of personal data, with the purposes listed in Article 12(2).<sup>20</sup></p>
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	<p>According to information by the <a href="https://www.istitutotumori.mi.it/web/guest/telemedicina">Istituto Tumori</a><sup>21</sup> on Telemedicine <i>'telemedicine services are provided solely under the National Health Service, and are assimilated to outpatient services; therefore, even if they are provided remotely through telemedicine, they are equivalent to the services provided in person, for which regular acceptance, issuing of the report, and payment of the ticket are required if not exempt. Patients wishing to make use of the telemedicine service must contact their reference specialist, who, after an appropriate suitability assessment (also in relation to the stage of the treatment pathway), will provide indications for joining the telemedicine service'</i>.<sup>22</sup></p>
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	N/A	<p>From information identified implicitly it seems that the tools are covered in the same way as other standard treatments. This is however so far unclear as no specific information was found on this.</p>

<sup>17</sup> [https://bioetica.governo.it/media/1805/p121\\_2015\\_mobile-health\\_it.pdf](https://bioetica.governo.it/media/1805/p121_2015_mobile-health_it.pdf) and Healthcare IT and E-Health in Italy - HealthManagement.org and mentioning the TFE in 2010 : Referto digitale: approvate dal tavolo permanente per la sanità elettronica le specifiche tecniche – Atlante S.r.l.

<sup>18</sup> [Agenzia per L'italia digitale](https://www.agid.gov.it)

<sup>19</sup> [www.fascicolosanitario.gov.it](http://www.fascicolosanitario.gov.it)

<sup>20</sup> [2\\_fse\\_linee\\_guida\\_dpcm\\_31032014.pdf](https://www.agid.gov.it/2_fse_linee_guida_dpcm_31032014.pdf) (agid.gov.it)

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.istitutotumori.mi.it/web/guest/telemedicina>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.istitutotumori.mi.it/web/guest/telemedicina>

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
consultations or telereha) compared to standard treatments?		
Are there any comprehensive cancer centres focussing on ehealth or telehealth treatments? If yes, which ones and for which specific fields?	Yes	<p>Several CCCs offer ehealth or telehealth services, however, it is unclear if there are any that are specialised or focused on ehealth treatments specifically. The following are examples of some of the centres that offer ehealth or telehealth treatments/services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IEO (certified comprehensive cancer centre in Milan) offers video consultancies (Televisite)<sup>23</sup></li> <li>• The Certified CCC of Aviano has several digital systems such as the digital radiology system or the digital mammograph.<sup>24</sup></li> <li>• The <a href="#">certified CCC, IRCCS</a> (Istituto Nazionale Tumori) offers several telehealth services.<sup>25</sup></li> <li>• Televisits: The Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori is developing new ways of providing remote specialist examinations, also referred to as televisits, which can replace face-to-face examinations at certain points in the patient's treatment pathway.</li> <li>• Telemedicine</li> <li>• Smartdoc: The 'SmartDoc' project has just kicked off at the National Cancer Institute in Milan. By dialling 02/23902384, it is possible to book a teleconsultation, at a cost borne by the National Health Service. The initiative offers cancer patients a new choice, especially useful for those who live in another city.</li> </ul>

### 3 STRATEGIES/POLICIES

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

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a national eHealth strategy?	No	<p>There isn't currently an individual/separate eHealth strategy, but eHealth strategy is defined by the Three Year Plan for Information Technology in public administration (Piano triennale dell'informatica nella pubblica Amministrazione), which is updated every 3 years. As well as in the agenda for digital growth (Strategia per la crescita digitale).<sup>26</sup></p> <p>The Strategy for Digital Growth and the Three-Year Plan for Information Technology in Public Administration defined actions related to digital health and aimed at improving health services, limiting waste and inefficiencies, improving the cost-quality ratio of health services, and reducing differences between territories.<sup>27</sup></p>

<sup>23</sup> [IEO \(certified comprehensive cancer centre in Milan\)](#)

<sup>24</sup> [https://www.cro.sanita.fvg.it/it/bandi-gara/bandi\\_2021/2021\\_forniturammammografodigitale](https://www.cro.sanita.fvg.it/it/bandi-gara/bandi_2021/2021_forniturammammografodigitale)

<sup>25</sup> [certified CCC, IRCCS](#)

<sup>26</sup> Strategy for digital growth by the Ministry for Technological Innovation and Digitisation : STRAT\_CRESCITA\_DIGIT\_2marzo.pages (governo.it)

[https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/strategia\\_crescita\\_digitale.pdf](https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/strategia_crescita_digitale.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> Three year Plan for Information Technology : Piano Triennale per l'informatica|Agenzia per l'Italia digitale (agid.gov.it) <https://www.agid.gov.it/it/agenzia/piano-triennale>

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		<p>There is also currently the awarding of strategic tenders for Digital Health under the new 'Three-Year Plan for IT in the PA', launched by Consip: the first tender dedicated to Clinical and Healthcare Information Systems in terms of telemedicine and electronic medical records (activated at the beginning of 2022), the second tender dedicated to Healthcare Information Systems and Services to Citizens (activated in December 2022), and the third tender dedicated to Management Information Systems (the awarding of which is currently being completed).</p> <p>Much of the progress made by Italy in the last two years in digital health can be traced back to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), the document prepared by the Italian government to access funds from the Next Generation EU (NGEU), the European Union's 750 billion euro package to boost growth, investment and investments and reforms in the Member States most affected by the pandemic on the basis of six fundamental 'pillars', including digital transition and pillars, including digital transition and health. In particular, the topic of digital health falls both under Mission 1 'Digitalisation, Innovation, Competitiveness, Culture and Tourism' to which are allocated 40.3 (21%)<sup>45</sup> of the 191.5 billion euro of the Italian NRP, and in Mission 6 'Health' to which 15.63 billion, or 8% of the total, are allocated.</p> <p>There has also been a National eHealth information strategy in 2012 which lasted for 36 Months.<sup>28</sup></p>
<p>If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting the national eHealth strategy?</p>	<p>Ministries</p>	<p>Two ministries were included in the preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry for Technological Innovation and Digitisation</li> <li>• Ministry of Health</li> </ul>
<p>Are there regional eHealth strategies? If so, can you indicate whether in all regions or only some? Can you provide some (exemplary) documents ?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Sicily for example defines objectives within Mission 6 'Health' of the PNRR, to be implemented with funding from the PNRR itself and the National Plan for Complementary Investments (PNC) 47, are set out in the Operational Plan. The Plan, which was fully incorporated the Institutional Development Contract (CIS) signed by the Sicilian Region and the Ministry of Health on 30 May 2022, is composed of Action Plans drawn up by the Region for each Line of Investment, which specify the interventions required to achieve the objectives set forth in the NRP. Sicily has a Digital Health Strategy for Sicily 2018 (Sicily's Digital Agenda) which is part of a framework of national and EU interventions that define the criteria and objectives to be pursued in the strategy. In particular, the Sicilian Agenda refers to the 'Strategy for Digital Growth 2014-2020' and to the 'Three-Year Plan for Information Technology in Public Administration', stressing as a fundamental principle the coordination of interventions in a single strategic project and the importance of public-private collaboration. The strategic plan covers several areas of public administration, such as the digitisation of infrastructures, the interoperability of 'ecosystems' and the development of digital services in numerous sectors.<sup>29</sup></p>

<sup>28</sup> Microsoft Word - The National eHealth Information Strategy\_20111123\_v.1.0.docx (europa.eu) <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/ehealth/document/it-national-ehealth-information-strategy-national-context-state-implementation-and-best-practices>

<sup>29</sup> 220701\_Paper\_MS-Sicilia-2022.pdf (ambrosetti.eu) [https://eventi.ambrosetti.eu/forum-sicilia-2022/wp-content/uploads/sites/223/2022/07/220701\\_Paper\\_MS-Sicilia-2022.pdf](https://eventi.ambrosetti.eu/forum-sicilia-2022/wp-content/uploads/sites/223/2022/07/220701_Paper_MS-Sicilia-2022.pdf)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting such regional strategy/ies?	Several	For Sicily several stakeholder groups have been included in the process of developing regional strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial Health Authorities</li> <li>• 3 University Hospital Authorities</li> <li>• 5 Hospital Authorities</li> <li>• 3 IRCCSs and</li> <li>• about sixty private contracted hospital facilities.</li> </ul>
Are there strategy/ies explicitly referring to / including eHealth cancer care?	No	None were found in the research for this country factsheet – remains unclear
If not, are there discussions ongoing to develop a national eHealth strategy?	Yes	See above
Is there a National Cancer Plan? And does it refer to eHealth?	Yes	<p>The ‘Piano Nazionale per la Prevenzione Oncologica’ is the national Cancer Plan - comprehensive strategy aimed at improving the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care of cancer in Italy. The plan is developed and updated by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including healthcare providers, patient organizations, and research institutions.</p> <p>The goals of the national Cancer Plan include improving the quality and accessibility of cancer care, promoting cancer research and innovation, and reducing the burden of cancer on society. The plan is designed to provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach to cancer care and to ensure that the latest advances in cancer treatment and research are made available to patients in Italy.</p> <p>The new National Cancer Plan 2022-2027 is to be examined by the State-Regions Conference; the document sets out the guidelines for the prevention, treatment and care of cancer patients with renewed focus on care pathways thanks to ‘a global and intersectoral approach, with greater integration between prevention, early diagnosis and care’ and with the major objective of reducing to the point of eliminating inequalities in access to prevention and treatment interventions;</p> <p>The National Cancer Plan 2022-2027 includes : digitalisation to streamline bureaucracy; increasingly home-based and integrated care with the hospital and territorial services; training of health workers and information campaigns for citizens;</p> <p>Additionally, a quick search within the document shows 18 mentions of the word “telemedicine” and 5 of “teleconsultancy”, including within strategic objectives, and one of the word “eHealth”, examples shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On page 54: <i>‘systematically adopt telemedicine solutions to ensure that the patient has the most suitable stay at home and the simultaneous remote monitoring by the care provider of care’</i></li> <li>• On page 108: mention of eHealth: <i>‘The application of eHealth education techniques can be advantageous in fostering these educations and the acquisition of lifestyles more consistent with the prevention and treatment of disease.’</i></li> </ul>
In the light of the EU „Beating Cancer Plan” – are there any recent plans to	N/A	No further information available.



Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
update or modify existing plans? If yes, what is the 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	No further information available.
Are there any other cancer care specific eHealth initiatives, f.e. by other stakeholders than policy makers / public authorities?	Yes	There is an information campaign related to cancer: RAI e Fondazione AIRC contro il cancro insieme oggi per cambiare il domani.

## 4 LEGISLATION

Table 4 : Overview on eHealth and cancer legislation - Italy

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
How would you evaluate the current state of legislation of eHealth in your country in general?	N/A	No further information available.
Is there legislation on how to use telemedicine in general?	Yes	<p>There are national guidelines drawn up by the Ministry of Health on the subject of telemedicine. Moreover, telemedicine is referred to in the current legislation on professional and healthcare liability, namely Law 24 of 2017, the so-called 'Gelli Bianco Law'.<sup>30</sup></p> <p>The Working Group on Telemedicine, also integrated by experts and representatives of the national federations of health professions (FNOMCeO and FNOPI), has prepared the document "National indications for the provision of telemedicine services", which was approved by the NSIS Steering Committee in the meeting of 28 October 2020 and adopted with the Agreement in the State-Regions Conference of 17 December 2020 (Repertory acts no. 215/CSR).</p> <p>The purpose of this document is to provide the indications to be adopted at a national level for the provision of certain telemedicine services, such as telehealth, medical teleconsultation, teleassistance by healthcare professions, and telereferral, so that the possibility of using telemedicine services (e.g. telehealth for check-ups) represents a concrete element of organisational innovation in the healthcare process.</p> <p>And a second document "Directions for the provision of telemedicine services and services by the health professions" which was approved by the Cabina di Regia in the meeting of 9 April and was adopted by Agreement in the State-Regions Conference on 18 November 2021<sup>31</sup>.</p> <p>This document is intended to provide uniform indications for the entire Italian healthcare system concerning telerehabilitation services provided by the</p>

<sup>30</sup> Telemedicine as a Medical Examination Tool During the Covid-19 Emergency: The Experience of the Onco-Haematology Center of Tor Vergata Hospital in Rome and [https://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C\\_17\\_pubblicazioni\\_2129\\_allegato.pdf](https://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pubblicazioni_2129_allegato.pdf) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7729865/>

<sup>31</sup> Repertorio Atti n. 231/CSR <https://www.statoregioni.it/it/conferenza-stato-regioni/sedute-2022/seduta-del-30112022/atti/repertorio-atto-n-231csr/>

		healthcare professions, as well as the services that may result from the combination of these services with each other and with other healthcare services. <sup>32</sup>
Is there legislation explicitly referring to cancer prevention?	Yes	Such as the law of 29 March 2019 <sup>33</sup> on the Establishment and regulation of the National Network of Cancer Registries and Surveillance Systems and Epidemiological Reporting for Population Health Monitoring. Screenings are provided by the MoH. <sup>34</sup>
Is there legislation explicitly referring to / including eHealth cancer care?	N/A	No further information available.
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 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).	N/A	No further information available.
What could be improved or would need to be done to improve these legislation for eHealth in cancer care in your country?	N/A	No further information available.

<sup>32</sup> p-3-csr-rep-n-215-17dic2020.pdf (statoregioni.it) <https://www.statoregioni.it/media/3221/p-3-csr-rep-n-215-17dic2020.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2019/04/05/19G00036/sg>

<sup>34</sup> Screening oncologici (salute.gov.it) <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioContenutiDonna.jsp?id=4511&area=Salute+donna&menu=prevenzione>

## 5 CANCER SPECIFIC eHEALTH SOLUTIONS

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

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Yes, Fascicolo sanitaria elettronico <sup>35</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Prevention of Cancer</b>	No	Yes, In 2016 an Italian Study identified 32 Apps aimed at the prevention of cancer, not all of them are developed in Italy, but as it seems used by patients in Italy <sup>36</sup>	Yes, many different webinars	-	-	-
<b>Treatment of Cancer</b>	Yes, ProstateRadioTherapy (PRT) system <sup>37</sup> , a system offering advanced treatment modalities for prostate neoplasia.	Yes, application to go with the website of ProstateRadioTherapy (PRT) <sup>38</sup> ; PanDi app that focuses on the pre-infusion phases of chemotherapy, particularly for pancreatic cancer patients. <sup>39</sup>	Yes, several webinars <sup>40</sup> in different formats, e.g. by AIRO association (association of radiotherapy and clinical oncology)	-	Yes, several institutes and CCCs offer teleconsultations, including IEO Institute <sup>41</sup>	-

<sup>35</sup> [Login \(fascicolo-sanitario.it\)](https://login.fascicolo-sanitario.it)

<sup>36</sup> [Tecnologia e prevenzione nell'era della Mobile Health: quali applicazioni per gli screening oncologici? \(igiennesanita.com\)](https://www.igiennesanita.com)

<sup>37</sup> <https://prt.istitutotumori.na.it/radiocare/>

<sup>38</sup> [Cancro alla prostata: clicca sull'App del Pascale - la Repubblica](https://www.repubblica.it/salute/cancro/2018/05/17/cancro-prostata-app-pascale/)

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.agendadigitale.eu/sanita/sanita-digitale-al-servizio-dei-malati-oncologici-cosi-le-app-spingono-la-patient-engagement/>

<sup>40</sup> 1 WEBINAR ECM AIRO 2022 » Associazione Italiana di Radioterapia ed Oncologia Clinica (radioterapiaitalia.it), Webinar: "Alimentazione e cancro nella prevenzione e nel trattamento terapeutico" Dott.ssa Cervigni - YouTube; Webinar: Il tumore della prostata, dalla prevenzione alla terapia - YouTube [Webinar sul "Linee Guida" al trattamento | cancro del polmone | alcases.eu](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.ieo.it/it/PER-I-PAZIENTI/Servizi-a-distanza/Televisite/>

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices
'Living with cancer'	Yes, AIMAC <sup>42</sup> informative website for patients and families	Yes, several, e.g., VIK Ovarico app for living with ovarian cancer <sup>43</sup> ; ASyMS <sup>44</sup> , an interactive tool that patients can also use during their daily activities, even away from home; PINO, allowing for easier access to oncology related information on tablet or smartphone <sup>45</sup>	-	-	-	-
Rehabilitation from Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palliative Cancer Care	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>42</sup> [Home - Aimag - Associazione Italiana Malati di Cancro](#)

<sup>43</sup> <http://acto-italia.org/news/vik-tumore-ovarico>

<sup>44</sup> [Un'app mobile offre ai malati di cancro una migliore qualità della vita | News | CORDIS | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#) : Using a mobile phone, patients fill in a questionnaire once a day about their chemotherapy symptoms. The protected information is sent to a computer that evaluates the symptoms. If the patient needs medical assistance, an alert is sent to doctors or nurses. The tool provides patients with real-time information that helps them manage their symptoms at home, without the need to travel to the hospital.

<sup>45</sup> [App PINO: Pazienti Informati Notizie Oncologia | Fondazione Aiom](#)

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

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)?	No	No website that lists many different solutions for patients was found. This website gives updates on eHealth solutions in oncology; However, it is not about Italy but cites recent international studies (in English). <sup>46</sup>
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	So far, there seems to be almost no public apps available by the Italian government.
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	No further information available.
How many Health Care Providers use such solutions? Which sector uses rather which types of solutions?	N/A	No further information available.

### Further relevant links:

- MoH : [eHealth - Sanita digitale \(salute.gov.it\)](https://salute.gov.it)
- Gov Document on “Mobile-health” and health applications: bioethical aspects : [M-Health: aspetti bioetici \(governo.it\)](https://www.governo.it)
- Gov Agency for digital Healthcare [Digital Healthcare System|Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale \(agid.gov.it\)](https://www.agid.gov.it)
- 2015 Article on eHealth in Italy :  [\(4\) \(PDF\) State of The Art in Adoption of E-Health Services in Italy in The Context of European Union E-Government Strategies \(researchgate.net\)](https://www.researchgate.net)
- Relevant Link for digital health applications : [Parliamo di Future Health - Digital Health Italia](https://www.parlamento.it)
- Maybe relevant : [Digital Health: dal 2024 per tutti i medici software clinici certificati secondo le normative europee | AgenSIR](https://www.agenasir.it)
- [Digital Health: dal 2024 per tutti i medici software clinici certificati secondo le normative europee | AgenSIR](https://www.agenasir.it)
- Study on digital Health between patients and Doctors : [Conoscenza, uso e attitudine verso gli strumenti di Digital Health tra i pazienti oncologici | Mario Negri](https://www.agenasir.it)
- Innovation scoreboard Italy (EU) 2022 : [ec\\_rtd\\_eis-country-profile-it.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eis-country-profile-it.pdf)
- Study on digital Health between oncology patients and Doctors attitudes towards digital health: [Conoscenza, uso e attitudine verso gli strumenti di Digital Health tra i pazienti oncologici | Mario Negri](https://www.agenasir.it)

<sup>46</sup> <https://digitalhealthitalia.com/la-salute-digitale-per-loncologia/>