

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

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.

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

- Bernard Bieda, MA/M.Sc.,eng., Narodowy Instytut Onkologii, National Cancer Institute Poland
- Marta Titaniec, Narodowy Instytut Onkologii, National Cancer Institute Poland
- Maciej Burski, Narodowy Instytut Onkologii, National Cancer Institute Poland

The pre-filled country factsheet was **reviewed** by

- Borek Lukasz, Department of Innovation, Ministry of Health in Poland
- Anna Romancyk, Department of Innovation, Ministry of Health in Poland

The country factsheet includes chapters on:

1 definitions

2 governance

3 strategies/policies

4 legislation

5 cancer specific eHealth solutions

Any questions? – Please get in touch via ecan@goeg.at.

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

1 DEFINITIONS

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

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 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 definition of this term used in official documents.
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 definition of this term used in official documents.
tele-medicine	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	Yes, telemedicine is understood as the remote delivery of health care services and medical information using telecommunications technologies is an

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

² 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)*

³ [Events - Smart4Health](#)

⁴ [Digital health EURO \(who.int\)](#)

⁵ [Telehealth – DigitalHealthEurope](#)

Term	Definition	Deviation
	information, through text, sound, images or other forms needed for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients. » ⁶	important element of the development of e-health in Poland in the coming years. ⁷ There is no explicit reference to remote communication between two healthcare professionals as part of telemedicine.
tele-consultation	PAHO describes teleconsultation (also sometimes referred to as remote consultation or telehealth), as « interactions that happen between a clinician and a patient for the purpose of providing diagnostic or therapeutic advice through electronic means. » ⁸	Yes, the Polish definition, apart from the interaction between the doctor and the patient, indicates interaction of patients with the nurse as well, in order to provide advice, but also to issue a prescription or referral to a higher level of care. 'Tele advice' is used as a synonym, defined as medical or nursing teleconsultation supported by self-diagnostic tools as form of first contact enabling solving basic health problems, including issuing a prescription or referral to a higher level of care.
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 definition of this term used in official documents. The Ministry of Health launched a mHealth certification process in March 2023.mHealth certification process ⁹ .

2 GOVERNANCE

Table 2 : Overview on eHealth governance - Poland

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a Ministry or State Secretariat explicitly in charge of eHealth/dHealth? If so, which Ministry ?	Yes	A 'Committee of the Government for Digitalization' (Komitet Rady Ministrów do spraw Cyfryzacji) is in place. ¹⁰ The Ministry of Health is specifically in charge of digitalization in health.
Does the Ministry who is in charge of health care also have a specific Department or Unit in charge of eHealth/dHealth	Yes	The Department of Innovation in the Ministry of Health is in charge. Tasks include i.a.

⁶ Telemedicine – DigitalHealthEurope

⁷ ZDROWA PRZYSZŁOŚĆ RAMY STRATEGICZNE ROZWOJU SYSTEMU OCHRONY ZDROWIA NA LATA 2021–2027, Z PERSPEKTYWĄ DO 2030 R. MINISTERSTWO ZDROWIA [2022.12.13: <https://www.gov.pl/attachment/4a9bd160-e052-4a52-8fd4-b7c546d556f8>]

⁸ <https://www3.paho.org/ish/images/docs/covid-19-teleconsultations-en.pdf?ua=1>

⁹ <https://www.gov.pl/web/zdrowie/komunikat-ministra-zdrowia-w-sprawie-przyznawania-aplikacji-tytulu-aplikacja-certyfikowana-mz-oraz-wlaczania-do-portfela-aplikacji-zdrowotnych-paz>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.pl/web/krmc>

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acting as the business owner of the Electronic Platform for Collection, Analysis and Sharing of Digital Resources on Medical Events (P1) project and • acting as the National Contact Point for e-Health project, • collecting and distributing information on projects implemented in the area of e-health, • developing documents of a strategic and operational nature in the area of e-health.
Is there a national eHealth governance board?	Yes	<p>There is a board to oversee e-Health, the Interoperability Council. The tasks of the Council include presenting positions, opinions and recommendations to the eHealth Center (CeZ) Director in order to develop and implement a coherent and interoperable eHealth system in Poland in the following areas: legal, institutional, organizational, semantic and technical.¹¹</p> <p>In addition there are steering committees for specific projects / work streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee for the Project 'Introduction of modern e-services in healthcare entities supervised by the Minister of Health' (e-Services) • Steering Committee for the construction of the Electronic Platform for Collecting, Analyzing and Sharing Digital Resources on Medical Events (P1) • Steering Committee for the e-Krew project (blood donation support system)
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 eHealth Center (CeZ) is a state budgetary unit subordinated to the Minister of Health. Its area of activity is the development of healthcare information systems. CeZ is a health unit responsible for health care information systems. The information system processes the data necessary to conduct the state health policy, improve the quality and availability of health care services and finance tasks in the field of health care. Until August 2020, the Center operated under the name of the Center for Health Information Systems (CSIOZ).¹²</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, infrastructure	<p>The e-health system (P1) enables the collection, processing and sharing of digital resources about patients' medical events and indexes of electronic medical records (EDM). The system covers all medical entities, regardless of the source of financing the services provided by them.</p> <p>The e-health system (P1) consists of digital services (e-prescription, e-referral, EDM, ZM), applications (Internetowe Konto Patient, MojeIKP, office.gov.pl) and solutions facilitating the processes of planning and implementing health care services. They support the daily work of medical entities, medical employees and public administration responsible for the functioning of the health care sector in Poland. They provide patients with digital tools to help manage their health and that of their loved ones.</p> <p>The system was created with co-financing by the European Union under the project 'Electronic Platform for Collection, Analysis and Sharing of Digital Resources on Medical Events (P1)'.</p>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.pl/web/zdrowie/rada-ds-interoperacyjnosci>

¹² <https://www.cez.gov.pl/index.php/pl/main-page-en>

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		<p>A 'First Contact Teleplatform' (TPK) supporting primary health care operates the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • person suddenly become ill outside of the GP office hours • health of person suddenly deteriorates, but does not have symptoms suggesting that she/he is in a life-threatening condition, and the measures or over-the-counter drugs used have not helped • there is a fear that waiting for the opening of the primary care clinic may adversely affect your health.
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	In the inpatient sector all the dHealth/eHealth tools are covered in the benefits package.
Are there any comprehensive cancer centres focussing on ehealth or telehealth treatments? If yes, which ones and for which specific fields?	N/A	No further information available.

3 STRATEGIES/POLICIES

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

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a national eHealth strategy?	Yes	<p>The 'eHealth Development Program' (Program Rozwoju e-Zdrowia) refers primarily to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the strategic document of the Ministry of Health 'Healthy Future' (Zdrowa przyszłość. Ramy strategiczne rozwoju systemu ochrony zdrowia na lata 2021-2027, z perspektywą do 2030; Strategic framework for the development of the health care system for 2021-2027, with a perspective until 2030) as well as • the Strategy for Responsible Development until 2020 (with a perspective until 2030) (SRD), • the Human Capital Development Strategy 2030 (SRKL), • the National Reconstruction Plan and Increasing Resilience (KPO) of the e-Health Development Program as part of the tasks set out in the implementation documents, i.e., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ transformation plans at the national level called 'National Transformation Plan for 2022-2026' and the regional level (Voivodeship Transformation Plans) and

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plans for health presented in the Polish Lada (Development of modern technologies in health care).¹³ <p>Additionally, the eHealth Center has a strategy in place. Pursuant to the ordinance of the Minister of Health of June 4, 2020 on the eHealth Center, the eHealth Center is a state budgetary entity subordinated to the competent minister responsible for health care information systems. The eHealth center implements the goals and priorities of e-health in Poland, creates, delivers, develops and maintains secure IT solutions for the healthcare system that respond to the needs of their users. The eHealth Center is a leader in creating and delivering innovative solutions for the healthcare system; provider of key e-services that are perceived by patients and other participants of the healthcare system as: adequate to the needs, reliable and safe.¹⁴</p>
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting the national eHealth strategy?	Various	The document was distributed widely for consultations. No information on the working groups drafting the strategy could be identified in documentation. A document which entities should be consulted for the 'Healthy future. Strategic framework for the development of the health care system for 2021-2027, with a perspective until 2030' is available. ¹⁵
Are there regional eHealth strategies? If so, can you indicate whether in all regions or only some? Can you provide some (exemplary) documents?	No	There are no unified strategies for the regions, however, there are elements related to e-health in general regional strategies, including regional projects implementing e-health. There are European projects implementing IT health information systems.
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting such regional strategy/ies?	Various	Local government units, non-governmental organizations
Are there strategy/ies explicitly referring to / including eHealth cancer care?	Yes	As part of the NSO (National Oncology Strategy), tasks are carried out, e.g., Portal Oncology, IKP (Patient Internet Account, government application with selected events of individual medical history).
If not, are there discussions ongoing to develop a national eHealth strategy?	N/A	Not applicable. The 'eHealth Development Programme' serves as a national document providing directions for the interventions in the area of eHealth.
Is there a National Cancer Plan? And does it refer to eHealth?	Yes	<p>There is a National Oncology Strategy by the Ministry of Health for 2020-2030.¹⁶</p> <p>The National Oncology Network ensures a more comprehensive and effective management of oncological care focused on a cancer patient. It will connect oncological hospitals into a network of facilities, forming provincial networks and a nationwide network. It entered into force in March 2023.</p> <p>Implementation is done through intensification of the use of alternative forms of communication with the patient, direct contact via electronic means of communication, Patient Internet Account, social media, preventive call-centers, etc. A National Oncology Portal will be launched.</p>

¹³ <https://www.gov.pl/attachment/2f730969-29eb-461e-a5cb-295e391960c2>

¹⁴ https://cez.gov.pl/sites/default/files/paragraph.attachments.field_attachments/2022-12/strategia_rozwoju_cez.pdf

¹⁵ <https://legislacja.rcl.gov.pl/docs//3/12348352/12798644/12798646/dokument509764.pdf>

¹⁶ [Narodowa Strategia Onkologiczna - Ministerstwo Zdrowia - Portal Gov.pl](https://www.gov.pl/attachment/2f730969-29eb-461e-a5cb-295e391960c2)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
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?	N/A	No clear information available, implementation of NSO in accordance with the schedule for the coming years.
Are there any indicators in eHealth policy or national programmes on cancer care measuring the progress of the use of eHealth in cancer care?	No	No further information available.
Are there any other cancer care specific eHealth initiatives, f.e. by other stakeholders than policy makers / public authorities?	Yes	The National Oncological Portal has not yet been launched but a cancer prevention app has been developed by National Health Fund ¹⁷ as well as private sector apps are in place. ¹⁸

4 LEGISLATION

Table 4 : Overview on eHealth and cancer legislation - Poland

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
How would you evaluate the current state of legislation of eHealth in your country in general?		<p>The current laws in Poland, particularly the Act of 5 December 1996 on the Professions of Doctor and Dentist (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 1731, as amended) explicitly allow providing health services through telemedicine systems.</p> <p>It should be noted, that during the consultation, the doctor decides, among other things, whether it is possible to assess the patient's health condition remotely or whether a stationary visit is necessary. The form of the medical consultation (teleconsultation, personal visit to the healthcare facility, or home visit) should always depend on needs and the patient's health status.</p> <p>It should be emphasized that teleconsultations are a complementary, not a substitutive, element of the Polish healthcare system and may only be provided in cases where the assessment of the necessary actions for the patient does not require the personal presence of medical staff. Teleconsultations have also been legally allowed as one of the guaranteed services (health services entitled under general health insurance system) basic healthcare.</p>
Is there legislation on how to use telemedicine in general?	No	In Poland, the term telemedicine does not have a statutory definition. The starting point for the analysis of national regulations is the general definition included in the Act on Medical Activity. According to Art. 3 sec. 1 - 2a of the Act of 15 April 2011 on medical activity ¹⁹ - medical activity consists in the provision of health services, health promotion or the implementation of

¹⁷ <https://www.nfz.gov.pl/o-nfz/programy-i-projekty/projekty/cancell-cancer/>

¹⁸ <https://mednavi.pl/>

¹⁹ [ustawa z dnia 15 kwietnia 2011 r. o działalności leczniczej](#)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		<p>didactic and research tasks in connection with the provision of health services and health promotion, including the implementation of new medical technologies and treatment methods. These activities may be performed via ICT systems or communication systems. At the same time, Art. 2 sec. 4 and art. 42 sec. 1 of the Act of 5 December 1996 on the Professions of Physician and Dentist²⁰ states: A doctor may also provide health services via ICT systems or communication systems and rule on the health of a specific person after prior personal examination or examination via ICT systems or communication systems, as well as after analysing the available medical documentation of that person. The professions of nurses and midwives can also be performed using telemedicine solutions. This is stated in Art. 11 sec. 1 and art. 15b sec. 1 of the Act of 15 July 2011 on the professions of nurse and midwife²¹.</p> <p>This issue is mentioned also in the document The eHealth Development Program for 2022-2027, the prospective use of AI to develop detection from the documentation of laboratory tests and imaging tests of cancerous lesions.²²</p> <p>The issue of providing teleconsultations at the level of basic healthcare is regulated by the Minister of Health Regulation of 12 August 2020 on the organizational standard of teleconsultations in primary healthcare (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 1194).</p> <p>According to the mentioned standards, using the service provided in the form of a teleconsultation is possible when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is suspicion of infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus; • the patient needs a prescription for medicines necessary for the continuation of treatment, and the doctor has the medical documentation; • the patient needs a prescription for medical supplies as a continuation of the previous prescription, and the doctor has their medical documentation; • the patient needs a certificate; • a child under 6 years of age uses a follow-up consultation established by the doctor during a direct visit that does not involve a physical examination. <p>The standard also requires confirmation of the patient's identity based on the data mentioned in the relevant provisions of the Act of 6 November 2008 on Patient Rights and the Patient Ombudsman (Journal of Laws of 2020, item 849, and of 2022, items 64 and 974) provided by the patient through teleinformatics systems or communication systems, and:</p>

²⁰ [ustawa z dnia 5 grudnia 1996 r. o zawodach lekarza i lekarza dentyści](#)

²¹ [ustawa z dnia 15 lipca 2011 r. o zawodach pielęgniarzy i położnej](#)

²² <https://www.gov.pl/web/zdrowie/program-rozwoju-e-zdrowia-na-lata-2022-2027>

5 CANCER SPECIFIC EHEALTH SOLUTIONS

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

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi- disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices	Other, please specify
Ecosystem	Yes, Patient Internet Account (IKP), National Cancer Registry (e-KRN), National Oncology Portal (implementation scheduled for Q1/2023)	Yes, Patient Internet Account (IKP), applications in the AppStore, e.g., 4 applications for doctors in the field of cancer care, 1 for patients 1 for patients about clinical trials	Yes, webinars are organised by different stakeholders, mainly clinical societies' and patients' organisations, covering various area	-	-	-	-
Prevention of Cancer	Yes, Patient Internet Account (Internetowe Konto Pacjenta) (IKP)	Yes, mojeIKP, different from IKP and not interchangeable	-	-	-	-	-
Treatment of Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
'Living with cancer'	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rehabilitation from Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palliative Cancer Care	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
How many eHealth solutions (in the sense of medical devices and thus 'authority approved/certified') solutions are existing currently in your country in the context of cancer care/treatment?	N/A	The procedure for awarding the title of MZ Certified Application has been launched, but no application has been certified yet. The procedure applies to the application only. It should be emphasized, however, that according to the definition given at the beginning, mHealth includes not only applications, but also remote medical devices.
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	There is no website or other information about solutions that are recommended for public use (e.g. a selection of health apps recommended for cancer patients or in general). When the first applications receive the title of Certified Application of the Ministry of Health and will be implemented in the Portfolio of Health Applications, the Ministry of Health will provide the gov.pl subpage with a list of certified applications. Only services within the Patient Internet Account are recommended.
Can you give an estimation on how the split between private and public apps are available? Give an estimate percentage of public solutions.	Private- Public 65%-35%	Most apps available are private.
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 information about certification or quality approval	Ministry of Health is working on the certification of health-related applications. The process assumes the award of the title of "MZ Certified Application" and inclusion in the "Health Applications Portfolio" (PAZ).
How many Health Care Providers use such solutions? Which sector uses rather which types of solutions?	N/A	Health Care providers (mostly providing publicly founded services) are mandated to use government eHealth solutions, e.g. e-prescription.