

Fully exploiting the opportunities of mHealth

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Warsaw, Poland on 1 to 3 December 2016:

Having regard to:

- the resolution 'Reclaiming Liberalism: A liberal response to digitalisation' adopted at the 2015 ALDE Party Congress in Budapest, Hungary.

Welcomes:

- the huge potential of mHealth to increase the sustainability of healthcare systems by reducing unnecessary consultations and better prepared healthcare professionals using mHealth as an aide for treatment and medication;
- the improvement in health and comfort of citizens that mHealth can bring by facilitating effective and efficient care provisions and wider access to approved evidence-based healthcare;
- mHealth's contribution to the empowerment of patients, in particular older people and people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, by allowing them to more actively manage and monitor their health, and lead a safer and more independent lifestyle through self-assessment or remote monitoring apps as well as the reminder of preventive measures in the right time;
- that data generated through mHealth enables evidence-driven care practice and the surveillance of out-of-clinic behaviour and research activities;
- the European Commissions' ongoing work to establish guidelines for assessing the validity, usability and reliability of mHealth apps;
- the rapid growth and expansion of the mHealth app market, estimated to cover over 100,000 apps, and the global expected worth is \$23 billion in 2017, with Europe accounting for \$6.9 billion.

Recognises that:

- mHealth is defined by the European Commission as all medical and public health practices supported by mobile devices, such as mobile phones, patient monitoring devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and other wireless devices, including lifestyle and wellbeing apps;
- all healthcare professionals and patients should have access to all available information to ensure continuity of care and the adherence of patients to the necessary treatment;

Resolution:

Fully exploiting the opportunities of mHealth

Year and Congress:

Warsaw, Poland 2016

Category:

Culture, Education and Research

Page:

1

- mHealth can fill health care gaps in remote and less densely populated areas, for instance through remote monitoring;
- a WHO assessment indicates that competing priorities, a lack of policy and ambiguous regulations are the main barriers for mHealth diffusion and safety.

Is concerned:

- about the protection of medical data when users and patients are not made aware of the use of their data or the business model of the mHealth application developer;
- that 45% of all mHealth users are worried about unwanted use of their data, for example by insurers or employers;
- about the patients' right to follow their data in third countries, whatever its location, and the data protection standards that apply in those jurisdictions;
- of the consequences if mHealth is missing the correct evidence base due to incorrect algorithms, analysis or other technical difficulties and is therefore producing wrong advice;
- that the lack of interoperability of mHealth could create barriers for use and limit its potential.

Stresses that:

- data generated by mHealth apps should be highly encrypted;
- mHealth apps should provide a relevant degree of patient authentications mechanisms to mitigate privacy and security risks;
- anonymisation should be the standard. However, when anonymisation might be an obstacle to research activities or when anonymisation is a major impediment to the fight against fraud against social security, pseudonimisation could be considered;
- the patient should have all-time personal management of his data - in accordance with the medical professionals responsible to avoid misdiagnosis – whether it is for information, correction or deletion;
- there should be a clear distinction and easy possibility to check up the legal status (i.e. as the verification of online pharmacy) for patients between medical apps and non-medical apps.

Calls on:

- the European Commission and the Member States to create a legal, financial and organisational framework, in full respect of the competences laid down in Article 162 of the TFEU, to integrate mHealth applications into current and new health systems keeping in mind the

Resolution:

Fully exploiting the opportunities of mHealth

Year and Congress:

Warsaw, Poland 2016

Category:

Culture, Education and Research

Page:

2

principles of data protection and the patient's right to privacy of his or her medical data;

- the EU to keep fostering research and innovation in digital health and become world leader in this field, by engaging all relevant actors in the further development of mHealth;
- the European Commission to facilitate semantic operability of SnomedCT and other corresponding standards to other EU languages, in order to boost cross-border use of mHealth.

Resolution:

Fully exploiting the opportunities of mHealth

Year and Congress:

Warsaw, Poland 2016

Category:

Culture, Education
and Research

Page:

3