In some countries, health records still travel by fax machine. In others, a simple QR code on your prescription lets any pharmacy in the country access it instantly. The European Health Data Space is designed to close that gap between fragmented paper trails and digital access.

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SafePolyMed.eu

Improving Safety in Polymedication by Managing Drug-Drug-Gene Interactions

Safety in Polypharmacy training 2026

Session 7 - Video 3/3

Data Safety, Privacy, and GDPR

The European Health Data Space: What's Coming Next

Patricia Cervera de la Cruz, Dominique Hamerlijnck, Joan Jordan, Olga Millán

LeukaNET Leukemia Advocates Network

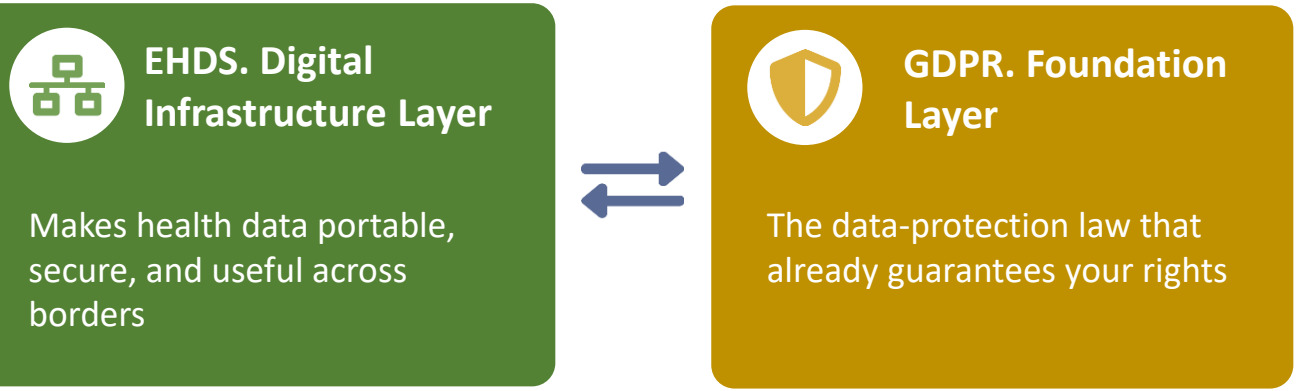
Patvocates PATIENT ENGAGEMENT IS IN OUR DNA

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What Is the EHDS?

It is a major European Union regulation that creates a single, secure digital system to share and reuse electronic health data across EU countries



Make health data genuinely portable, secure, and useful, without compromising the protections the GDPR already guarantees

https://www.european-health-data-space.com/

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Your New Rights Under the EHDS

Access Instantly

Electronically, free, in a readable format

Share With New Providers

No obstruction from previous providers

Add Your Own Data

For yourself, or someone who trusts you

Request Corrections

Correct inaccurate data, at any time

Restrict Access

Restrict access to some or all your health data

See Who Accessed It

Find out exactly which professionals viewed it

Each EU member state must designate a Digital Health Authority to enforce these rights.

https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/my-rights-over-my-health-data_en

Cross-Border Care in Action

MyHealth@EU, the cross-border digital infrastructure connecting national systems so patients can access and share priority health data wherever they are in the EU.



https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/my-rights-over-my-health-data_en

Primary Use of Health Data: Making the System Work

Primary use means using your health data for the purpose for which it was originally collected.
The EHDS strengthens your ability to access your own electronic health data and share it with healthcare professionals involved in your care even across EU borders.



Interoperability



Security & Privacy



Self-Certification

Each member state must set up a digital health authority to ensure these rights are properly implemented.

https://www.European-health-data-space.com
https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/european-health-data-space-regulation-ehds_en

Secondary Use of Health Data: Research, Innovation, and Permits

Secondary use is the reuse of health data for purposes different from the original reason for which it was originally collected
The EHDS creates a common framework that makes this possible across Europe.



Individuals have the right to **opt out** of the secondary use of their electronic health data.

There is one exception to all this, **genetic data**, with availability variations between countries.

https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/european-health-data-space-regulation-ehds_en

Secondary Use of Health Data: Research, Innovation, and Permits

The difference between anonymisation and pseudonymisation.



Anonymisation

No longer personal data. Permanent and irreversible



Pseudonymisation

Still personal data. Key additional information kept separately

https://gdpr-info.eu/art-4-gdpr/

Protections Against Misuse

Even under a valid permit, health data can never be used for:

- **Detrimental decisions**
- **Raising insurance premiums**
- **Targeted health advertising**
- **Harmful product design**

Researchers and innovators from outside the EU can access data for secondary use under the very same conditions as those within the EU, no special exceptions either way.

https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/european-health-data-space-regulation-ehds_en

Your Choice: Opting Out

You always retain a choice over how your health data is used.

Everyday Care

Member states may offer an **opt-out** from cross-border data sharing.
This doesn't affect how your data is stored and processed within your own country's system.

Secondary Use (Research)

You can **opt out** in a simple, reversible way and under strict safeguards.
Some data may still be used for genuinely important public interest purposes, with full transparency.

https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/european-health-data-space-regulation-ehds_en

Key Takeaways

Over this session, we have covered what personal data is, how GDPR protects it, how it applies to health research and polypharmacy, and now, what the EHDS means for the future.

- Fundamentals of polypharmacy, how drugs interact in the body, and the genetics behind those interactions
- The factors that make patients vulnerable
- How to report side effects and understand what matters most to patients
- How your health data is protected
- The future with the European Health Data Space

SafePolyMed training complete ✓

Credits & Attributions

Authors

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AI disclosure

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Figures

- Cross-Border Care in Action and Secondary Use of Health Data illustrations generated using Microsoft Copilot and reviewed and edited by humans.

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