



Latvijas Digitālās  
veselības centrs

# Availability of Primary Health Data While in Latvia

## Information for Foreign Tourists

From 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024, residents of EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein (hereinafter – Member States) who are staying in the Republic of Latvia are entitled to receive medical assistance, during which healthcare professionals will have access to electronic information regarding the patient's primary health data.

This enables healthcare professionals in Latvia to have more comprehensive information about a patient's health status when needed. For instance, if an injury occurs during a business trip or if a health condition worsens suddenly, the available information helps to make more accurate decisions regarding the diagnosis and treatment of the patient's condition. This is especially important in situations where the patient has limited communication abilities or is unconscious.

The relevant information will be accessible to healthcare institutions in Latvia if cross-border exchange of basic health data is enabled between Member States. From 4<sup>th</sup> March cross-border exchange of primary health data has been initiated with Estonia, Spain, Malta, France, The Netherlands and Portugal. Other countries will join the system gradually. The list of participating countries will be regularly updated on the Latvian Digital Health Centre website under the section "[Pārrobežu E-veselības pakalpojumi](#)" and on the [eHealth Portal](#) under the same section.

### Important!



It should be emphasized that, as of March 4, residents of Member States, when receiving medical assistance in Latvia, will, if necessary, have healthcare professionals involved in the treatment process who will be able to view the patient's primary health data – such as diagnosed conditions and information regarding any surgical interventions that may have occurred in the last six months.

## Who is this informational material intended for?

This information is intended for residents of Member States who are visiting Latvia and require medical assistance due to injury or other reasons.

The purpose is to inform individuals about how their personal data is processed and the applicable legal regulations when healthcare providers in Latvia access their primary health data.

## **How is access to patient data provided?**

Access to patient data is facilitated through the European Core Service Platform, with Member States exchanging primary health data, which allows healthcare professionals to view the patient's primary health information.

## **Is it necessary to present an identification document before receiving the service?**

Before receiving services at a healthcare facility, the patient must present an personal identification document so that the healthcare professional can identify the patient and obtain consent for processing personal data.

In cases where the patient is unable to present an identification document, for example, if the patient has limited communication abilities or is unconscious, emergency medical assistance will be provided without identification and patient consent for the processing of personal data.

## **Who has access to my data?**

Only certified healthcare professionals providing medical assistance at healthcare facilities or during emergency medical services have access to your data. Member States ensure that healthcare professionals receive the necessary information and training and that they can access your data only when it is required to provide you with medical care.

Viewing or retrieving the patient's basic health data is recorded and stored in audit logs. Before viewing/retrieving the patient's health data, the patient is identified, and a record is made confirming that the patient has given consent for the processing of their health data.

## **What type of data is processed?**

The data transferred to Latvia by another Member State, depending on the type and amount of data specified for transfer. For example, patient demographic data that allows for identification, as well as primary health data (allergies and intolerances, disease diagnoses, medical devices, surgical interventions performed, therapy recommendations, vaccination data, pregnancy data, blood type, blood pressure, social history).

Information about the data that your country of residence transfers to other Member States, including Latvia, can be obtained by contacting the relevant administrative authority in your country of residence.

# Is my data secure?

Data exchange between Member States is carried out through the European Core Service Platform.

The legal basis for transferring patient data is Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR), as well as Cabinet Regulation No. 134 of 11 March 2014 *“Regulations on the Unified Electronic Information System of the Health Sector.”*

## Data Processing

Your data will be processed in each Member State according to that country's national legislation and in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR).

In Latvia, the data processing procedures for data stored in the unified electronic health information system (eHealth system), including e-prescriptions, are governed by the Cabinet of Ministers' Regulation No. 134 of March 11, 2014, *“Regulations on the Unified Electronic Health Information System.”*

## Your Rights

You have the right to request data and information from the Latvian Digital Health Centre (Latvijas Digitālās veselības centrs) about who has processed your primary health data and the reasons for processing it.

If you have reasonable grounds for concern, you also have the right to file a complaint with the supervisory authority either in your country of residence or in Latvia, depending on the specific situation. In Latvia, the supervisory authority is the **Data State Inspectorate (Datu valsts inspekcija)**.

The contact information for each Member State's supervisory authority is available on the [European Commission's website](#).

## Where Can I Find More Information?

To learn more information about your primary health data, you can contact the responsible public authority in your country. For information about healthcare service providers in Latvia, you can contact the Latvian Contact Point.

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|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>National Contact Points:</b>              | <a href="#">List of Contact Points</a>                                                                  |
| <b>Latvian eHealth User Support Service:</b> | Phone: +371 67803300<br>Email: <a href="mailto:atbalsts@eveseliba.gov.lv">atbalsts@eveseliba.gov.lv</a> |