

Health Data & the implications of the Pandemic

“Digital Health should not be a gateway to dehumanize care”

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1. What is Health Data – some sources

- Hospital Records (paper or electronic?)
- GP/Primary Care Records (paper or electronic?)
- Pharmacy Records – Drug Prescriptions
- Clinical trials & research
- Public Health aggregated data
- Growing consumer generated data (e.g. fitness devices & apps)
- Private sector collected data (e.g. Pharma & Medtech)



2. The importance of data: Hype?

- “ Data is the new oil”
- 2006 Tesco
- 2011 Gartner
- 2013 IBM
- 2016 Under Armour & Microsoft
- 2016 Marc Farr East Kent University NHS Foundation Trust!!
- 2017 Digital Health Society : Estonian Presidency



3. Some Known Barriers to using Health Data

- Information silos – lack of interoperability
- Security (physical & digital) & Privacy
- Connectivity & Digital Literacy
- Ethics
- Public / Private sharing
- Evidence that all of the above met and the use achieves a material benefit/value



4. What's happening in Europe?

- A European strategy for data (19th February 2020)
- “ the way in which the data is collected and used must place the interests of the individual first, in accordance with European values, fundamental rights and rules”
- EC focus on 1) technology that works for people 2) a fair and competitive economy & 3) an open, democratic and sustainable society.
- Common European Health Data Space



5. Initiatives to watch

- Digital Health Europe EU Project & Consultations
- All Policies for a Healthy Europe – Data Working Group
<https://healthyeurope.eu>
- EU Health Coalition – 20 Recommendations <https://healthyeurope.eu>



6. Some Pandemic needs

- Data to track number of infections & inform public health actions
- Track and trace apps
- Data to develop clinical protocols & treatments
- Data for clinical research for antigen and antibody tests
- Digital alternatives to face to face appointments (GPs and Outpatients appointments)



7. Health System Failures : Healthcare knows no borders!

- National , European & Global planning
- Supply Chain planning
- Dependencies on remote countries for key supplies
- Global coordination, solidarity & Leadership
- “ Improvement in resilience of health and care systems is urgently needed”



8. Solutions

- Widespread use of digital meeting software e.g Teams, Zoom
- Government fast tracked procurements, trials & device exemptions
- Symptom checkers & virtual care assistants
- App Libraries for clinical prescription e.g Orcha Covid site
- C-19 Covid Symptom Study - Kings College London & ZOE 3.9m users
- Clinibee : platform for clinical collaboration & governance (guidelines)
- See DHI Global Examples of COVID-19 Surveillance Technologies Flash Report



9. Will the Digital Solutions stick?

- As health systems return to normal will digital solutions be lost?
- Will fast deployments continue?
- Will “learn by doing” revert to evidence based requirements & pilots?
- “ Covid has taught as much and morally we must learn and improve based on what we have experienced” Rachel Dunscombe



Thanks

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