

WEBINAR

TOP TAKEAWAYS

REGULATIONS AND FACTUAL BACKGROUNDS ON REMOTE MEDICAL CONSULTATION AND TREATMENT IN GERMANY, FRANCE, THE UK, ITALY AND SPAIN

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GERMANY

Exclusive tele-medical treatment has only been part of Germany's healthcare since 2018; previously, it was banned by professional laws. The tele-medicine sector is now developing quickly and has a lot of private and public promoters. Digital Health apps and e-prescriptions are the latest innovations within the German healthcare system. They shall be operational – and digital health apps also reimbursable – in the course of this year, if not by the end of next year at the latest.

FRANCE

The French Telemedicine rules are clearly regulated, with 5 specific acts; tele-expertise, tele-monitoring, tele-assistance, regulation and tele-consultation (or online consultation). Each of these have specific regulatory and privacy constraints, as well as specific requirements applicable to reimbursement of online consultation. Certain requirements are exceptionally waived in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the existing context accelerate the development and general acceptance of teleconsultation in France and their government. E-prescriptions are not yet regulated in France and are still under experimentation.

UNITED KINGDOM

Telemedicine and remote care has seen a huge surge during COVID-19 and the system and regulation has been shown to be efficient. Now the question remains whether this will become standard practice and will extend into hospital outpatient settings?

ITALY

COVID-19 emergency gave a boost to tele-medicine services, although they are not implemented uniformly at regional level, as well as to the e-prescriptions, with the dematerialization of the paper-memorandum of the e-prescriptions under the National Healthcare Service and the extension of e-prescriptions also to medicines to be paid by patients (expected in the next future).

SPAIN

Although no express regulation of virtual consultations exists in Spanish law, deontological codes for medical practitioners prohibit actual diagnosis and prescription without an onsite visit. Initial assessment (triage), second medical opinion (supporting diagnosis) and patient monitoring are activities that can be provided online. Telemedicine in Spain is only available in the private healthcare system, given that there is currently no provision for general public reimbursement for this type of medicine. However, prescription communication systems between doctors and pharmacists are already available both in the public and private healthcare systems.

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