

PFARRKIRCHEN, GERMANY

# DIGIHEALTHDAY - 2021

GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH – TODAY, TOMORROW, AND BEYOND

**12**  
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 2021

## DigiHealthDay™ Impulse Talk

### Integration of Digital Health services in national health systems to enable achieving of Universal Health Coverage

**November 12, Friday, 2021, 14:00-14:30 (CET)**

#### ABSTRACT

The talk defined “integration” and provided the rationale for integrating digital health services in the national health system. Integration is the enemy of silos, independent, disconnected and unpanned applications. This integration may include the use of standards at the national level to facilities interoperability between systems, building capacity and national training of eHealth personnel, integrated information and communication technology infrastructure in health facilities, equitable and timely knowledge sharing and dissemination, national coordinated implementation of an electronic health record system that is an open standard-based and fully recognize the centrality of patients in the health care process and driving eHealth in one direction in support of health care at the national level. Seamless integration requires following a strategy that is not only comprehensive but also a long term one on the basis of the national health situation and priorities. The World Health Assembly Resolution (WHA71.7) of May 2018 urged WHO Member States “to consider, as appropriate, how digital technologies **could be integrated into existing health systems infrastructures and regulation**, to reinforce national and global health priorities by optimizing existing platforms and services, for the promotion of people-centered health and disease prevention and in order to reduce the burden on health systems.

The same resolution urged the Director General of WHO to “**facilitate the integration of eHealth in health systems and services**, including in the deployment of telemedicine infrastructure in countries where medical coverage is inadequate, in the training of health-care professionals, and in capacity building, in order to improve access to, and quality and safety of, care”. The example of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 is an excellent example of integrating these Goals. Achieving a Goal affects and is affected by other Goals. Health is in a central place in the SDGs and represents a complete set of targets. Among these is Target 3.8 (Universal Health Coverage-UHC). Achieving UHC depends on the level of integration of eHealth/digital health in the health system. Equity and leaving no body behind require inclusiveness of eHealth at national level and reaching out to all.

