

# Digital Agenda

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## for Europe



# Patients and doctors: ICT for sustainable healthcare

**Investing in digital technologies related to healthcare, also known as eHealth, can dramatically improve the range and quality of care available to Europe's patients and medical specialists.**

For instance, new telemedicine services such as online medical consultation and portable devices that monitor the health condition of people suffering from chronic disease and disabilities have the potential to offer a freedom of movement that patients have never enjoyed.

In practical terms, eHealth can minimise the risk of medical errors and help the early detection of health problems. Home telemonitoring of heart patients can improve survival rates by 15%, reduce hospital days by 26% and save 10% in nursing costs – vitally important in tough economic times. ePrescriptions can reduce errors in drugs dosage by 15%. eHealth will be critical to keep health care affordable and accessible to all in the ageing societies of Europe.

The Digital Agenda aims to provide Europeans by 2015 with **secure access to their online medical health records** not just at home but also when they are travelling anywhere in the EU. This would facilitate the work of doctors and enable patients to get the best help if they are seeing a doctor at home or in another EU country.

**Want to know more? Check [http://europa.eu/information\\_society/digital-agenda](http://europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda)**

**Any comments or questions? Send an e-mail to [INFISO-DIGITAL-AGENDA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFISO-DIGITAL-AGENDA@ec.europa.eu)**