



PUBLIC RELATIONS

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WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION ADOPTED A GLOBAL HEALTH STRATEGY TO EXPAND THE EU'S ROLE IN THE GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

The recent document depicting EU Global Health Strategy, presented on Wednesday (November 30), aims to boost the bloc's leadership role in the global health debate by strengthening global health architecture and taking an integrated approach to the "global interconnectedness of health".

The strategy intends to facilitate the pursuit of the universal health objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To achieve this, the Commission focuses the Union's action on achieving universal access to health care, strengthening primary health care and tackling the root causes of ill health, such as poverty, social inequalities and substance abuse.

The EU executive's document outlines three key, "interrelated" priorities for addressing global health:

1. ensuring better health and well-being for people across the lifespan;
2. strengthening health systems and ensuring universal access to health care;
3. preventing and combating health threats, including pandemics, through a "One Health" approach.

In addition, the strategy identifies three key enablers for achieving better health, namely digitalisation, research development and a skilled workforce, and points to specific actions to achieve global progress in these areas.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_7153

EU MINISTERS EXPECTED TO DELETE THE PROVISIONS ON CROSS-BORDER TELEMEDICINE FROM HEALTH DATA SPACE

The compromise text of the European Health Data Space (EHDS), presented by the Czech EU Council presidency, suggests that the EU ministers intend to scrap the provisions regarding cross-border telemedicine, introduced in the initial proposal by the Commission.

Parallely, European Parliament and the Council are preparing their amendments to the Commission's proposal on the EHDS presented in May. Afterwards, the draft will enter into interinstitutional negotiations to approve the new rules. However, it seems that the EU ministers gathered in the Council are not on the same page as the Commission as regards transnational telemedicine.

The wording of Art.. 8 of the proposal, entitled „Telemedicine in the context of cross border healthcare”, has been entirely deleted from the current text of the new law, seen by EURACTIV. It envisaged that if a „Member State accepts the provision of telemedicine services, it shall, under the same conditions, accept the provision of the services of the same type by healthcare providers located in other member states”. Therefore, such a legal provision could violate art. 168 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the EU, stating that each Member State is responsible for the management of health services.

As the leaked text of the compromise only consists of two out of four chapters, the forthcoming Swedish presidency in the EU Council will most probably take over the negotiations from the Czechs.

Source: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/health-consumers/news/eu-ministers-to-scrap-cross-border-telemedicine-from-health-data-space/>

TWITTER RESIGNS FROM ENFORCING ITS COVID-19 MISINFORMATION POLICY

Twitter announced it will cease enforcing its previously applied policy against COVID-19 disinformation, raising concerns among public health officials that the shift may have severe consequences if it discourages vaccination and other measures to tackle the still-spreading virus.

The Twitter users spotted the policy change on Monday night (28 November), realising that one additional sentence had been made to the Twitter Rules, stating the following: “Effective November 23, 2022, Twitter is no longer enforcing the COVID-19 misleading information policy.” However, the statement did not include any additional details on the exact enforcement procedures which are about to change.

Already on Tuesday, some accounts decided to test the new limits and celebrate new Twitter’s approach, introduced shortly after the platform was bought by Elon Musk. On the other hand, public health experts warn that the policy shift is likely to bring more false statements concerning the COVID-19 pandemic and respective countermeasures. They claim it may lead to an increased narrative claiming vaccines are unsafe or ineffective.

Parallely, Twitter’s decision could mean more than 11,000 accounts suspended since the introduction of its COVID-19 misinformation policy may soon be or already are in the process of being brought back to Elon Musk’s platform.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/twitter-ends-covid-misinformation-policy-cc232c9ce0f193c505bbc63bf57ecad6>

Thank you for your attention!

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