



Electronic Patient Record (ePA)

The introduction of the electronic patient file not only enables complete documentation of health treatment, but above all offers the advantage that independent specialists, therapists or pharmacists receive a holistic overview of the course of treatments carried out so far. In this way, individual therapy decisions can be made more quickly and efficiently. But what technology is the ePA based on and what other functions are hidden behind it?

The use of the ePA is voluntary and free of charge for insured persons. The documents stored on it are available 24/7 nationwide and can be easily exchanged between different medical facilities. To do this, insured persons only have to register with their statutory health insurance companies and download the health insurance company-specific eHR app. Registration then takes place with the help of the electronic health card or two-factor authentication. It is then possible to view health-related data in the app or to upload or download doctor's reports or other medical documents.

The prerequisite for practices, pharmacies and other health care facilities to access the electronic health record is connection to a telematics infrastructure. This in turn requires that a PTV4 connector, an eHealth card reader incl. station and an SMC-B institutional card are available. The connector as a hardware component connects the service provider to the telematics infrastructure via a transport network. In this way, primary systems can securely access various smart cards of the telematics infrastructure via network-capable e-health card terminals. The connection between the connector and the eHealth card terminal is made via a LAN interface. Whenever the electronic health card is inserted, the master data of the insured person is compared and updated. If, for example, electronic medication plans or an emergency data record are to be created on the card, the primary system first requests PIN entries at the card terminal. With the help of a security module integrated in the card terminal, the data is encrypted via a TLS connection.

Primary systems such as hospital information and practice management systems must be equipped with a corresponding software update so that the data records on the eHR as well as other specialised applications (e.g. electronic prescription, medication plan, etc.) of the telematics infrastructure can be read and updated. Some documents, such as doctor's letters, additionally require a qualified electronic signature (QES) via electronic health professional card. This can be requested by the service providers from the respective card providers.

ePA as an innovative digital approach to healthcare

- ◇ **Provider:**
all health insurance funds (Germany)
- ◇ **Technical requirements:**
PTV4 connector, eHealth card terminal, Institution card SMC-B
- ◇ **Advantages:**
All relevant health data united in one place

Transparency

Security through TLS encryption
- ◇ **Document types:**
Emergency data set

Electronic medication plan / doctor's letter/ vaccination/maternity record

Child examination booklet

Data from DiGAs

Electronic certificate of incapacity for work

Telemedical monitoring

Care transition form

Would you like to learn more about progress in the field of digital health? Then take a look at our latest arcoro INNOVATIONS on the topic of „Telemedicine & DiGAs“.

© arcoro GmbH · www.arcoro.de

