



Nacionālais veselības dienests

Access to basic health data while in Latvia

Information for foreign tourists

Starting from 4 March 2024, residents of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein (hereinafter - Member State) staying in the Republic of Latvia may receive medical assistance during which the medical practitioner is provided with access to electronic information on the patient's basic health data.

This gives Latvian healthcare professionals access to more complete information on a patient's health status, if needed. For example, if you suffer an injury or sudden deterioration in your health during a business trip, the information available allows medical practitioners to make better, faster decisions about the diagnosis and treatment. This is especially important in situations where the patient has limited communication abilities or is unconscious.

The above-mentioned information is available to Latvian medical institutions if cross-border exchange of basic health data is ensured between the Member States. As of March 4, cross-border basic health data exchange was launched with Estonia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Spain, Lithuania and Portugal, while other countries will join gradually. The list of countries will be renewed in the National Health Service section "[Cross-Border E-Health Services](#)".

Important! It should be stressed that from 4 March, healthcare professionals will be provided with information on a person's basic health data to the extent that the Member State provides for the exchange of basic health data and to the extent that it is available in the patient's home country information system or local system.

Who is this information for?

This information is intended for residents of the Member States who arrive in Latvia and need medical assistance due to an injury or for other reasons.

It aims to inform people about how their personal data is processed and about the applicable law if a patient's basic health data is accessed by a healthcare provider in Latvia.

How is patient data accessed?

Access to patient data is through the European Core Services Platform, with Member States exchanging basic health data, resulting in medical practitioners being able to view a patient's basic health data.

Do I need to show proof of identity before receiving the service?

Before receiving the service at the healthcare institution, the patient must present his/her identity document so that the healthcare professional can identify the patient and obtain consent for the processing of personal data. In cases where the patient is unable to provide proof of identity, for example if the patient has limited communication capabilities or is unconscious, the patient receives emergency medical care without identification and consent to the processing of personal data.

Who has access to my data?

Access to your data is limited to certified medical practitioners who provide medical assistance in healthcare facilities or in the context of a medical emergency. Member States ensure that healthcare professionals have adequate information and training and that they only have access to your data when they need to provide you with medical treatment.

The viewing of the patient's basic health data is recorded and stored in the audit trail. Before viewing/retrieving the patient's basic health data, the patient is identified and a note is made that the patient has given consent to the processing of the patient's basic health data.

What kind of data is processed?

Data transferred to Latvia by another Member State - depending on the type and amount of data that it has determined to be transferred. For example, patient demographic data that identifies you, as well as basic patient health data (allergies and intolerances, disease diagnoses, medical devices, surgical interventions performed, treatment recommendations, vaccination data, pregnancy data, blood type, blood pressure, social history). You can find out about the data that your country of residence transfers to other Member States, including Latvia, by contacting the responsible authority of your country of residence.

Are my data safe?

Data is exchanged between Member States via the European Core Services platform. The legal basis for the transfer of patient data is Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the

processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) and Cabinet Regulation No 134 of 11 March 2014 "Regulations Regarding the Unified. Electronic Information System of the Health Sector".

Data processing

Your data will be processed in the Member States in accordance with the national laws of each Member State and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

The procedure for processing data, including e-prescriptions, stored in the unified electronic information system for the health sector in Latvia (E-health system) is determined by Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No 134 of 11 March 2014 "Regulations Regarding the Unified. Electronic Information System of the Health Sector".

Your rights

You have the right to request data and information from the National Health Service about who has processed your e-prescription information and the reason for processing it. In the event of a reasonable suspicion, you also have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority either in your country of residence or in Latvia, depending on the specific situation. In Latvia, the supervisory authority is the State Data Inspectorate.

The contact details of the supervisory authorities in each Member State can be found on the European Commission's [website](#) .

Where to find out more?

For more information about your basic health data, you can contact the responsible government authority in your country. For information on medical service providers in Latvia, please contact the Latvian Contact Point:

Latvian E-Health User Support Service: phone: 67803300, e-mail: atbalsts@eveseliba.gov.lv

Member State Contact Points: [List of Contact Points](#)