

Ethical Principles for eHealth

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Implications for Trust and Acceptance

Briefly consider four areas of Ethics that have an impact on trust and acceptance

- ▶ Trust Issues in General
- ▶ Ownership
- ▶ Dignity
- ▶ Privacy

Implications: TRUST IN GENERAL

- ▶ For patients to place trust in eHealth systems they need a **better understanding** of how they work and how they use personal data
- ▶ This implies the introduction of **transparency and openness** about data usage and the levels of protection
- ▶ Leading to formal security policies based on risk analysis and a declaration regarding **residual risk**

Implications: OWNERSHIP

- ▶ Ownership v Control v Mastery
- ▶ International debate favoured the view that the "owner" of the record is the person to which it relates
- ▶ **But can the patient truly own the record?**
Where is it held? Who holds it?

Implications: OWNERSHIP (...)

- ▶ The more remote the record,
the less respect there is for it
- ▶ The human body/ the human being is in danger of becoming little more than a digital map comprising 1s and 0s!

Implications: DIGNITY

- ▶ The human body/human being is in danger of becoming little more than a digital map comprising 1s and 0s
- ▶ As a result, respect may be lost and dignity may suffer as personal information may become **a saleable commodity**

Implications: DIGNITY (...)

- ▶ Dignity in the home requires the ability to control remote monitoring technology and to have the right to switch it off
- ▶ There is a need for some form of patient support and advocacy **to prevent financial or other concern overriding personal dignity**

Implications: PRIVACY

- ▶ Privacy and confidentiality are different things
- ▶ Consent: when is explicit consent required and implied consent acceptable? Is it ever acceptable?
- ▶ Threats to privacy vary with the circumstances, leading to balanced **security** policies and processes but always coupled with **transparency**