Integration of Patient Health Portals into the German Healthcare Telematics Infrastructure

In this paper we describe a generic model of a patient health portal, which is suitable to implement patient access to the evolving German healthcare telematics infrastructure. The portal uses the telematics as a communication infrastructure to ensure the concise and secure exchange of medical data between professional medical personnel and patients. We aim at providing patients an application platform model for using and enhancing their data by processing or extending them with medical services offered via the internet or with local medical appliances. We show that a) specific functionalities (such as data import/export from/to the telematics) for patient health portals can be derived from the legal foundation in the German law b) the portal is conceptually suited to provide a link between the public health information infrastructure and other (maybe commercial) applications in the e-health environment via Personal Health Records (PHR) and c) patients? rights can be mapped with a common data model.
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