**teamplay digital health platform**

# Swiss Post is building national electronic patient record in Switzerland to improve quality of medical care
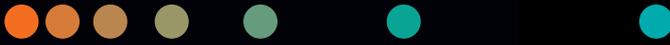
## Introduction

In Switzerland, the Federal Act on the Electronic Patient Record (EPRA) sets the legal framework for the electronic patient record (EPR). This framework is set by regulating organizational, technical, as well as data privacy and security aspects, i.e. the access rights to the sensitive health data of patients.

To comply with the EPRA, since 2021 hospitals and rehabilitation clinics have started to join certified core communities (organizational associations of health professionals and their institutions) and initiated the connection to an EPR system. In April 2022, the EPRA will become effective for care homes as well. The EPRA is also part of the overarching Swiss eHealth Strategy 2.0, which aims to promote and enable digitalization to offer digital support for treatment processes and patient journeys, increase efficiency and ultimately improve the quality of medical care.

## Challenges

### Legal Compliance in accordance with federal law

Legislation pushes digitalization and the implementation of eHealth in Switzerland.

One of the challenges resulting from this is the **technical implementation of a legally compliant EPR,** which facilitates the secure and trustworthy conveyance of sensitive health data in accordance with the Federal Act on the Electronic Patient Record (EPRA).

### Seamless integration of data and IT systems

Isolated and disparate data from numerous healthcare stakeholders and data sources require seamless data integration to create a comprehensive view of the patient history.

Different IT systems need to be connected to the national infrastructure and secure data sharing between institutions must be enabled to achieve **cross-departmental and cross-institutional interoperability.**
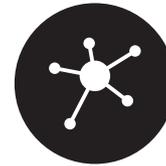
### Digital access point to centralize collaboration

**One central access point for patient-specific health data** for convenient and safe access to personal patient health records via a trustworthy platform needs to be provided.

The aim is to offer user-friendly access and completion of EPRs, while reducing concerns regarding data privacy by empowering patients to manage access rights to their personal medical data.

**Strategic Partner**

SWISS POST

**SIEMENS**
**Healthineers**

## Solution

With the introduction of the Swiss Post E-Health platform, the EPR solution, Swiss Post is aiming to enhance the quality of medical treatments, improve treatment processes and increase patient safety through offering protected access to relevant patient-specific medical data. The EPR enables registered patients and authorized health professionals to upload treatment-related information from the patient's medical history, which can then be accessed independently of time and location. This ensures cross-organizational data flow and data accessibility at the point of care.

In medical emergencies, where immediate data availability is particularly important, health information can be retrieved regardless of the patient's privacy settings, but every access is automatically recorded, and the patient is notified afterwards.

By providing a comprehensive view of patient records, it also contributes to improving the quality and safety of care by increasing the effectiveness of clinical decision-making and preventing redundant duplicate examinations and treatment.

The Swiss Post E-Health Platform empowers patients by giving them the opportunity to configure access rights, which lets them decide who can access their personal EPR. The platform also adheres to internationally recognized healthcare IT standards such as IHE, HL7 (CDA, RIM) and DICOM.

## Siemens Healthineers as a partner – the teamplay digital health platform

To develop the E-Health platform, Siemens Healthineers has been chosen to support as a partner under the guidance of Swiss Post who operates the EPR.

The teamplay digital health platform brings decentralized storage of health data in repositories within the respective organization of origin (affinity domains) and allows data and record sharing between different healthcare providers and health information systems based on a pull-principle. This way, seamless interoperability is achieved.

## Outcome

Swiss Post, with contribution from Siemens Healthineers, will provide a nation-wide, highly secure EPR platform, that is based on international standards like IHE (International Health Exchange) and complies with the EPRA.

Within 5 core communities, spreading across 12 cantons, the EPR solution from Swiss Post will be deployed and integrated.

As a result, patient records of potentially 3.6 M citizens of the Swiss Population (8.6 M citizens in total) can be electronically managed and accessed through the EPR solution that is offered by Swiss Post.

## Swiss Post

The supplier in the healthcare sector takes a leading role as an integrated provider in the introduction of EPR in Switzerland and provides core communities with the necessary certifiable infrastructure based on the legally required technical and organizational certification requirements and IHE standards.

**42 %** 👤👤👤👤👤👤👤👤👤👤

*of the Swiss Population will be able to manage and access their health data thanks to the teamplay digital health platform powered by Swiss Post*