Privacy protection in eHealth environment

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ABSTRACT

ICTs’ evolution brought a new era for health services and health ethics. Modern technology promoted the interaction between patients and health-service providers, health data transmission, health information networks, electronic health records as well as telemedicine services. Meanwhile, lots of discussions were raised concerning medical secrecy and health data’s confidentiality, meeting the needs of EC 95/46 Directive and national legislation.

Besides the fact that Greece hasn’t completely fulfilled eHealth projects, a look at the general legal document that have been adopted or proposed in the last years shows an encouraging attempt for compliance with the European directives. Moreover, Hellenic Data Protection Authority provides specific provisions on health data and safeguards their processing by a health professional subject to the obligation of professional secrecy or to relevant codes of conduct.

Paper’s purpose is to make a brief description of eHealth practices followed according the European Community Action plans, to present the legal framework of Interoperable eHealth in Greece as well as to highlight health systems’ security weaknesses.

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