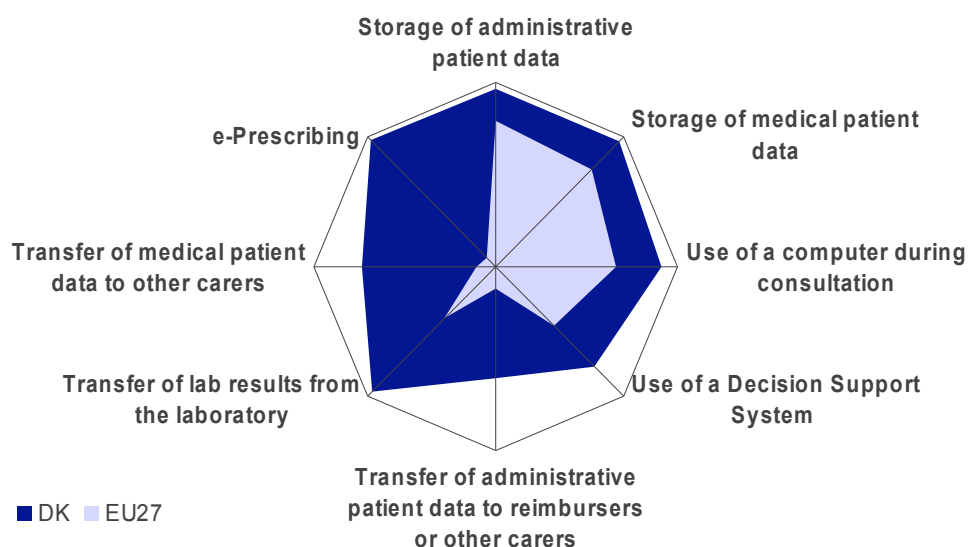


## Denmark

Denmark can be regarded as the European frontrunner concerning the availability of ICT infrastructure as well as when it comes to the use of eHealth among General Practitioners. Both computer and Internet are available in virtually all Danish GP practices and only an absolute minority (8%) does not resort to broadband connections.

In all three use categories under observation (Electronic storage of patient data, Computer use in consultation, Electronic transfer of patient data), usage rates in Denmark are among the highest found in the EU27, Iceland and Norway. As regards patient data transfer, Denmark is the top performer including in the area of ePrescribing which otherwise is done to a larger extent only in Sweden and the Netherlands.

Exhibit 5-5 eHealth use in Denmark



Indicators Compound indicators of eHealth use (cf. indicator annex for more information). Index scores ranging from 0 (not used at all) to 5 (used by all GPs in the country).  
 Source empirica, Pilot on eHealth Indicators, 2007.

Denmark has a history of dedicated eHealth strategies (cf. below) ranging back to 1996, when a strategy for the development of Electronic Patient Records (EPRs) was launched. The third and most recent generation came about in 2003 and comprises 29 initiatives jointly borne by a number of different actors (including the Ministry for Interior and Health, the National Board of Health, the Association of County Councils and the Copenhagen Hospital Corporation, MedCom and the Danish Standards Association). A core element of the strategy is the development and ultimate implementation of Electronic Health Records. Future plans encompass the extension of the existing ePrescribing scheme to arrive at a personal medication profile stored on a national prescription server, the making available of patient data across county boundaries on a look-up basis and the expansion of cross-border networks. In the latter area, Denmark is already active in the Baltic eHealth project for telemedicine across national borders in the Baltic Sea Region.

Other factors having a bearing on eHealth use include a fiscal agreement between the government and the county hospital owners requiring the use of Electronic Health Records in all Danish hospitals since 2005, the existence of a Danish Healthcare Data Network (VPN via Internet) based on a precursor county/local authority intranet, as well as the National Health Portal Sundhed.dk providing a single access point to Danish healthcare services for citizens and professionals.