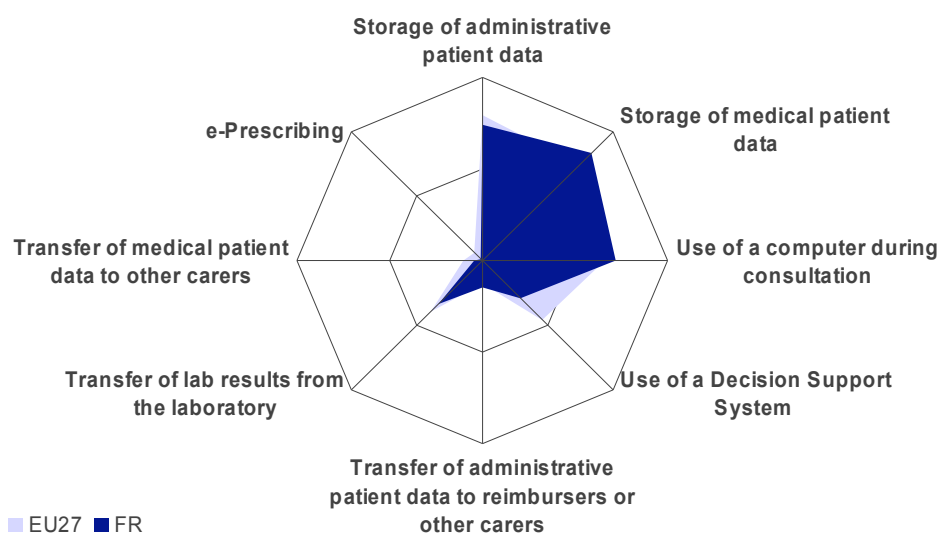


France

France is among the solid average eHealth performers in the EU27. As regards the storage of patient data and the computer use in consultation, the country is close to the EU27 average. Decision Support Systems are used to a lesser extent than in other countries of the EU. The situation is very much the same in relation to electronic patient data transfer. Here too, French usage rates are either at or slightly below average.

Exhibit 5-10 eHealth use in France



| | |
|------------|---|
| 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. |

Despite not having a dedicated eHealth policy strategy document bearing that name, France has a long history of health-related legislation affecting eHealth deployment. This includes laws on data protection, telemedicine, eHealth service provision, health IT product liability and – more recently – Electronic Health Records. Among those, the law organising a secure electronic health infrastructure was enacted in 1996. Since 2004 and the Healthcare Insurance Act, there is a workgroup (GIP DMP) dealing with the planning and implementation of EHRs and – since 2007 – with an ePrescribing scheme. One aim of the EHR scheme is to bring together the various local and regional projects dealing with electronic patient data under one, national framework.

There exist a number of eHealth-related activities under the wider national health system reform strategy. Current activities include smart cards, both for identification of health professionals and insurance status verification of patients, a national health portal and several application development projects.

As can be seen from the usage data, activities carried out so far have been rather successful in spreading eHealth use at least among General Practitioners. The upcoming development of a dedicated eHealth strategy – to be formulated by the Mission pour l'Informatisation du Système de Santé, an eHealth department of the cabinet – as well as the activities of the GIP DMP might help to streamline the large array of activities and to create further impetus in the area of electronic patient data transfer. Noting that, the recent turmoil caused by a negative result of an analysis on the overall impact of the DMP architecture can well delay developments.