EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
DG COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

eHealth-units

17TH EHEALTH NETWORK 3 JUNE 2020 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

COVER NOTE

1.1   **COVID-19 actions: Update on the latest developments: survey, toolbox, CMSS, CPMS adaptations**

1. Issue at stake

In the scope of the COVID-19 pandemics crisis management, the eHealth Network joined efforts in coordinated actions. These efforts started with a stock taking exercise to capture actions taken by each Member State and sharing best practices or success stories. From this exercise resulted also the identification of unmet needs that were somehow prioritised and implemented following the evolution of the pandemics crisis.

2. Summary

The Commission conducted a survey among the members of the eHealth Network on the actions taken by the Member States in the area of digital health in the fight against COVID-19. The survey revealed that Member States were implementing several solutions for information dissemination (information websites), self-reporting (symptom checking applications), monitoring the spread of the virus and for containing further transmissions (contact tracing applications).

The discussions of the results that followed showed the need for a coordinated response among Member States, and that there was a clear need for agreeing on a common approach to digital contact tracing. Contact tracing applications posed important challenges in terms of preserving privacy, ensuring technical interoperability and allowing access of public health authorities to epidemiological data.

On that basis, on 8 April 2020 the Commission adopted a recommendation to support exit strategies through mobile data and applications. On 16 April 2020, the Member States in the eHealth Network, supported by the Commission, adopted an EU toolbox on mobile applications to support contact tracing in the EU's fight against COVID-19. The Commission also released a guidance on data protection related to mobile applications to support contact tracing.

The work of the eHealth Network is continuing on the technical interoperability between different national contact tracing apps and associated systems, as well as on the fulfilment of the needs of public health authorities for epidemiological surveillance. Based on the recommendation, Member States will report on their actions by 31 May 2020 and the Commission will publish periodic reports as from June 2020, recommending new measures.

The Commission established the COVID-19 Clinical Management Support System (COVID19-CMSS) to support communication between clinicians dealing with Covid-19 across the EU. The CMSS provides a database of registered clinicians. It has been updated since 23 March and as 28 of April includes 470 clinicians located in more than 250 hospitals of 28 countries (26 EU Member States, only missing Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and Norway). Updates of the database are sent to clinicians on a

biweekly basis. Many clinicians use the phone numbers and email addresses on the database for quick contact. DG SANTE is also organising a series of webinars to support clinicians and other healthcare professionals in the frontline of COVID-19 patient care. These webinars provide the expertise and recommendations of some of the experts of the 24 ERNs for the management of some of the more complex cases of patients suffering at the same time of COVID-19 and a rare or complex disease or conditions.

Tree webinars have been already held and were attended by a total of 390 clinicians: sarcoma and COVID-19 patients; inherited arrhythmia syndromes and COVID-19; and COVID-19 and anti-epileptic drugs. Other two are scheduled for the end of April and beginning of May: COVID-19 in patients with rare diseases of the respiratory system; and COVID-19 in patients with cardiomyopathy. More webinars are under preparation.

Mid-April, the Commission proposed to Member States adapting the Clinical Patient Management System (CPMS) used by the European Reference Networks (ERNs) to allow timely and secure exchange of patient data during the COVID-19 crisis, particularly across borders.

The CPMS is a secure web-based application provided by the Commission to the European Reference Networks (ERNs) in order to facilitate the sharing of expertise amongst expert healthcare professionals across Europe for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with rare or low prevalence complex diseases or conditions. It is a centralised system that can be used as an interim solution for the exchange of patient data, in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, while a global solution for interoperability is not available.

3. Format of procedure in the meeting

For information.

The Member States will be encouraged invited to provide their input. To share lessons learned and to identify possible follow-up actions from the eHealth Network that may lead to a better preparedness for future crises.