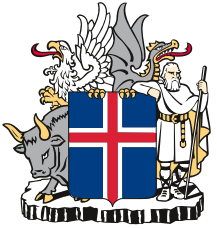# Digital healthcare policy

Ministry of Health

**Government of Iceland**
Ministry of Health

This digital healthcare policy will form a foundation for the development and use of digital technology planned by the Ministry of Health with the aim of improving services and utilizing the gathering, processing and sharing of data to enhance the health of the nation. Three main aims are identified in the policy: the activation of individuals as participants in their own health care and treatment, improved cohesion between systems and the support of innovation and research.

The policy was drawn up in consultation with the principal stakeholders involved in structuring, providing and monitoring health care.

Focal points
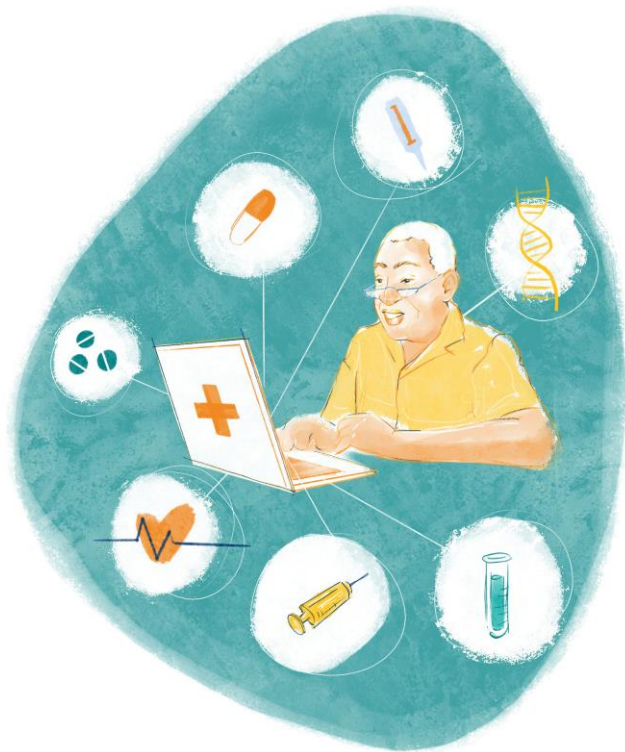
There are seven focal points in Iceland´s Health Policy until 2030:

- Leadership for results

- The right services in the right place

- People in first place

- Active users

- Efficient service purchasing

- Quality first

- Thinking about the future (Training of healthcare workers and scientific work)

Digital technology can be of crucial importance in all of these areas.

The following focal points are based on the Health Policy and take account of the minister's five-year plan of action. They will form a foundation on which the ministry will base future plans for the enhancement of health services and well-being through increased use of digital health tools and services.

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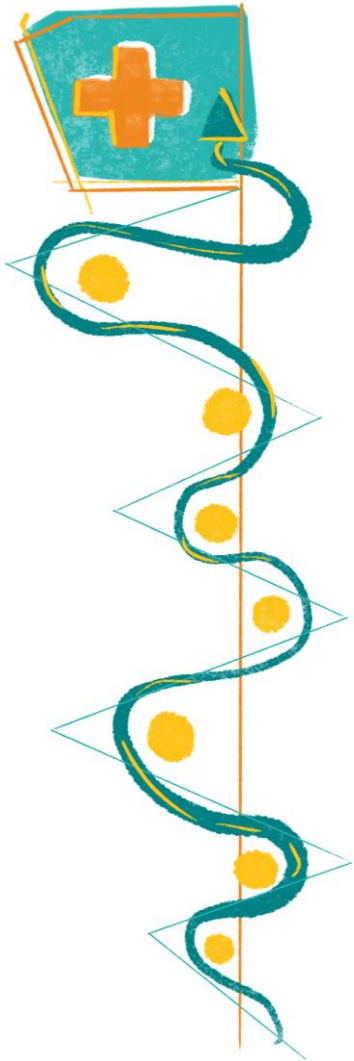
Principal challenges to be faced in the future:

- Ageing of the population and greater incidence of chronic illnesses

- Allocation of resources and access to services

- Shortages of manpower and problems with distribution and utilization

- Demand for higher productivity in the health services

Future vision

By 2030 citizens of Iceland in Iceland will be in a position to improve and maintain their own health through the use of digital solutions in a safe and integrated data environment.

Digitized data will be available to healthcare professionals to ensure safety and quality in services. Databases and biobanks in the health services will be open to those with the requisite licences to carry out scientific research.

Digitalization creates opportunities

The use of digital innovations makes it possible to provide better services:

- Sophisticated, compatible data systems

- Individually-tailored testing, diagnosis and treatment

- Use of data for preventive action for the individual and for public health

The aim is to put the individual's needs in the foreground and lighten the day-to-day work of healthcare professions by developing a **digital database** cutting across the health services and ensuring safety and quality.

Digital healthcare – the three main aims
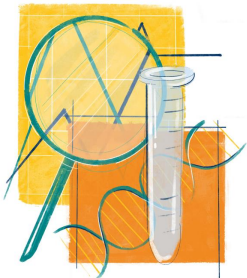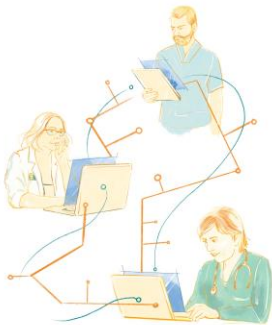
- To activate individuals as participants in their own health care and treatment

- To make for greater compatibility between systems

- To support innovation and scientific research

Activating individuals as participants in their own treatment and healthcare

- Individuals will be able to monitor, record and assess their health in their own health records

- The *Heilsuvera* portal will give access to information and guidance to enable individuals to respond to health problems

- Individuals will be able to contact treatment providers easily and safely via electronic channels

- Records on all individuals will be correct, satisfactory and protected against unauthorised access

Individuals will be able to use electronic solutions to protect their own health

Greater compatibility between systems

- Continuity in individually-tailored treatment

- Healthcare professionals to register relevant data in the medical records using standardised methods, and have access to the necessary medical history data at the right time

- Use of harmonised standards will lay a basis for secure communication between health systems, and other systems

- Constant feedback from users (the public and healthcare professionals) will make for improvement of electronic solutions
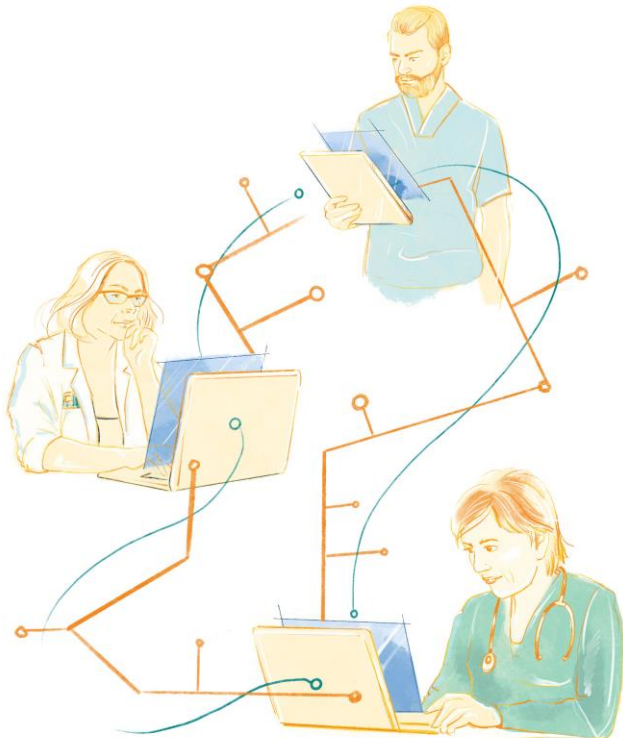
All users will perceive the health system as being coordinated as all data will be accessible to the appropriate parties at the right time

Support for innovation and scientific research
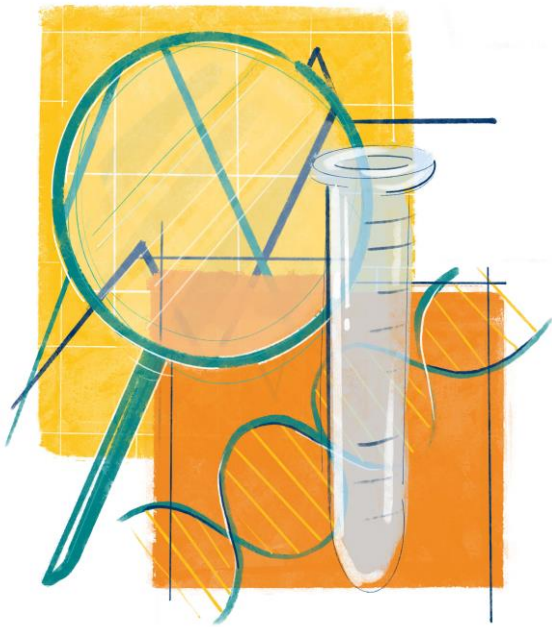
- Innovation in healthcare technology will receive support, and collaboration between healthcare institutions and other parties will be encouraged

- Public funding for collaborative ventures with partners

- Constant data-driven technological improvement. With AI and smart devices, this will promote automation, generate forecasts and support decision-making

- Deliberate development and use of health databases in the service of research, diagnosis and treatment

Focussed collaboration between entities will ensure constant development, innovation and science-based enhancement of the health services