Webinar on AI by EPF

Taking place 14.30 Friday 28th October 2022 on zoom, Dystonia Europe joined the webinar #3 in the series Understanding AI (Artificial Intelligence) by EPF (European Patient Forum).

The focus on this webinar was the EU-level legislative framework on AI.

Kaisa Immonen from EPF welcomed all participants, about 35-40 from countries throughout Europe, all members of EPF. Kaisa then gave an overview of EPF’s work on AI.

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AI refers to the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines.

European Commission definition:

“systems that display intelligent behavior by analyzing their environment and taking actions – with some degree of autonomy – to achieve specific goals. AI-based systems can be purely software-based, acting in the virtual world (e.g. voice assistants, image analysis software, search engines, speech and face recognition systems) or AI can be embedded in hardware devices (e.g. advanced robots, autonomous cars, drones or Internet of Things applications).

EPF started working on AI because the development of AI-enabled tools in healthcare will have an impact on patients – promising better health and care.  
E.g.: more accurate diagnosis, clinical decision support and efficiency.

But with any new technology there may be challenges, unfulfilled expectations, or unforeseen impacts.

The webinar series on AI helps provide more insight to the patient organisations as we are expected to provide a patient perspective to various EU/national policy initiatives and need to have the capacity to engage in debates in this highly complex and technical area. The patient perspective can be through EPF.

Kaisa spoke about the current status of AI in healthcare and the potential benefits such as improved quality and efficiency of diagnosis. She also addressed potential risks that need to be considered such as e.g. patients privacy and data protection, quality of data, accountability and liability, transparency...

EPF are engaged in the work the EU does on AI regarding health care.

The second speaker was Hannah van Kolfschooten, PhD Researcher & Lecturer, University of Amsterdam

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Hannah gave us insight into “The New Artificial Intelligence Act: Challenges for Patients’ rights”.

She addressed legal challenges for quality, safety, liability and patients’ rights.

Hannah spoke about the laws GDPR vs. MRD and that there are unclear relations between these and national heath laws within Europe. MDR is the EU Medical Devices Regulation.

The last speaker at this webinar was Masha Shabani, Assistant Professor, Ghent University.

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Masha held a presentation on “Right to Information of Patients in Algorithmic healthcare: from the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) to the European Health Data Space (EHDS)”.

The EC (European Commission) aims to establish a legal, governance, data quality, and operability framework, to facilitate access to and reuse of health data for improved healthcare delivery, improved research, and better health policymaking for both **primary** and **secondary** use of health data.

The initiative is enabling the **secondary use** of health data collected in a **broad range** of environments for purposes such as research, innovation and policy making.

She was also speaking about some of the shortcomings of GDPR like discrepancies between member states, unclear legal basis (consent, public interest etc.) and that secondary use of health data was not clear.

EPF LOGO

Each speaker covered more than we have mentioned here, this is just a summary to give an insight into the very complex world of AI in Healthcare. We will continue to be as up to date as we can on this and follow the development through EPF, various views and discussions.

Merete Avery

Operations Manager

Dystonia Europe