

Draft of Health Data Management (HDM) policy

April 25, 2022

In news- National Health Authority released the revised draft of Health Data Management (HDM) policy.

About HDM policy-

- It is the first step in realising the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission's (ABDM) (also called National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)) guiding principle of "Security and Privacy by Design" for the protection of individuals'/data principal's personal digital health data privacy.
- **It acts as a guidance document across the National Digital Health Ecosystem (NDHE)** and sets out the minimum standard for data privacy protection that should be followed across the board in order to ensure compliance with relevant and applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- The NDHE is based on the principle of federated architecture, which allows interoperability between independent and decentralised information systems, while enhancing the security and privacy of personal data of individuals.
- The provisions of this Policy shall be applicable to all the entities and individuals who are part of the ABDM ecosystem.

The key objectives of this Policy are-

- To provide adequate guidance and to set out a framework for the secure processing of personal and sensitive personal data of individuals who are a part of the NDHE in compliance with all applicable laws.
- To safeguard digital personal data within the ambit of

the NDHE, including the Personal Health Identifier, the electronic health records and electronic medical records, by implementing adequate technical and organisational measures across the NDHE.

- To create a system of digital health records which is easily accessible to individuals and healthcare service providers and is voluntary in nature, based on the consent of individuals, and in compliance with relevant standards.
- To increase awareness of the importance of data privacy and instil a privacy-oriented mindset among the members of ABDM and its ecosystem partners.
- To ensure portability in the provision of health services.
- To establish appropriate institutional mechanisms for auditing of the NDHE as needed and to encourage stakeholders and ecosystem partners to adopt the data protection principles set out in this Policy; and
- To leverage the information systems existing in the Indian health sector by encouraging conformity with the defined data privacy standards and integrating such existing systems with NDHE.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission's (ABDM)-

- ABDM, (earlier called the National Digital Health Mission), is the Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.
- It was launched on 15th August 2020 as a pilot in six Union Territories – Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.
- On 27th September 2021, the national rollout of the ABDM was announced.

- Four components of the Mission are Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) (earlier known as Health ID), Health Professional Registry (HPR), Health Facility Registry (HFR) and ABHA App (PHR).

Further

reading:

<https://journalsofindia.com/ayushman-bharat-digital-mission/>