TELEMEDICINE: A GLOBAL APPROACH TO TRENDS AND PRACTICES

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Date of completion: 30 November 2022

LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON TELEMEDICINE

1. Is telemedicine allowed in your country? If so, how is it defined?

Telemedicine, in practice, is allowed in Algeria since nothing prohibits it but is currently still in its early stages and not yet regulated. Thus, there is still no clear definition of telemedicine in Algeria.

2. Please provide a high-level overview of the legal framework regarding telemedicine in your country.

There is currently no legal framework regarding telemedicine in Algeria.

3. Briefly identify the key licensing bodies for telemedicine and outline their responsibilities.

N/A

4. Was Telemedicine authorised during the Covid-19 pandemic?

Please note that there was no special authorisation in this sense during the Covid-19 pandemic.

5. Is there any possibility of the regulatory landscape being changed in the postpandemic scenario? Or has there been already a change in the regulation in the postpandemic scenario?

Please note that there has been no specific change in the Algerian regulation regarding telemedicine in the post-pandemic scenario.

6. What types of teleservices are allowed (eg, second opinion, teleconsultation, telediagnosis, telesurgery, among others)?

N/A

7. Who can use telemedicine services? Please indicate if whether only doctor-doctor or also patient-doctor remote medical services are allowed.

N/A

8. Please outline the funding model for telemedicine. Is it available in your jurisdiction public health system? Is telemedicine under mandatory insurance coverage? Please indicate what legislation applies.
N/A
Please indicate whether any insurance requirements applicable to telemedicine services providers.
N/A
REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND INSTITUTIONS
10. Who can practice telemedicine in your country? Please indicate whether other healthcare professionals are authorised to provide remote health services under the applicable rules (eg, nurses, psychologists, nutritionists, alternative health therapies providers, etc).
N/A
11. Are there any specific education requirements or trainings that healthcare professionals need to meet or attend to provide telemedicine services?
N/A
12. Is there any registration requirement applicable to physicians that provide telemedicine services?
N/A
13. Please indicate whether special licences or authorisations are mandatory for institutional healthcare providers engaged in telemedicine services.
N/A
REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO TELEMEDICINE SERVICES
14. Are there specific requirements applicable to the telemedicine platform?
N/A
15. Are there any requirements regarding electronic equipment and internet speed for telemedicine services?

N/A

16. Does the legislation provide for specific rules concerning patients' medical records?

Please note that as per Article 292 of Law 18-11 of 2 July 2018, related to health, public and private health structures and institutions are required to establish and update a single computerised medical record for each patient.

They must protect the confidentiality of the information they hold.

They are also required to ensure the management and preservation of medical records.

However, please note that the obligations described above are general and not specific to telemedicine, since there is no specific regulation governing telemedicine in Algeria.

17. Are there geographic location requirements applicable to the provision of telemedicine services?

N/A

18. Does the healthcare professional need to obtain patient's consent to engage in a telehealth?

N/A

19. Is there any other important requirement that should be highlighted?

N/A

DATA PRIVACY ASPECTS

20. Are there data privacy issues that should be considered for the exploitation of such market? If your answer is positive, please provide a short description.

Please note that Article 5 of Law 18-07 of 10 June 2018 on the protection of personal data provides that the automated processing of personal data for the purpose of research or studies in the field of health, as well as the evaluation or analysis of health care or preventive practices or activities, are subject to this law, with the exception of, among other things, the processing of personal data for the purpose of the therapeutic or individual medical follow-up of patients, as well as the processing carried out within health care establishments by the doctors responsible for medical information.

However, please note that the obligations described above are general and not specific to telemedicine, since there is no specific regulation governing telemedicine in Algeria.

21. Does the applicable regulation provide for criteria and requirements for the security systems to protect the patient's information?

N/A

22. Does the applicable regulation provide for requirements for the transfer of information abroad?

Please note that Article 44 of Law 18-07 of 10 June 2018, on the protection of personal data provides that the data controller may transfer personal data to a foreign country only with the authorisation of the national authority, in accordance with the provisions of this law, and only if that country ensures an adequate level of protection of privacy and fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals with respect to the processing of which such data are or may be the subject of.

By way of derogation from the above provisions, the controller of the processing of personal data may transfer personal data to a State that does not meet the above conditions if the transfer is necessary for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of medical conditions.

However, please note that the obligations described above are general and not specific to telemedicine, since there is no specific regulation governing telemedicine in Algeria.

23. Is there any registration of databases requirement that companies must observe? Are there requirements regarding the recording of data in the patient's medical records?

Please note that Law 18-07 of 10 June 2018, on the protection of personal data does not provide for specific requirement that companies must observe regarding registration of database.

Regarding the recording of data in the patient's medical records, please note that Article 292 of Law 18-11 of 2 July 2018, related to health provides that public and private health structures and institutions are required to establish and update a single computerised medical record for each patient.

LIABILITIES

24. Please provide a high-level overview of the liability of healthcare professionals and institutions involved in telemedicine practices.

N/A

TELEMEDICINE NUMBERS AND TRENDS

25. Is there any public disclosed information concerning the use and acceptance of telemedicine in your country?

N/A

26. What are the perspectives and trends in relation to the matter for the next few years? Please outline any unresolved issues, proposed changes or trends for the

telemedicine sector and briefly indicate how these may foreseeably affect medical practice in the near future.

Please note that although telemedicine is discussed by health professionals during meetings or seminars on the subject, there are currently no plans to regulate the practice of telemedicine in Algeria.

Moreover, one of the main concerns raised in the context of a possible implementation of telemedicine is the establishment of telecommunication means adapted to such practice.