INPDP
الهيئة الوطنية لحماية المعطيات الشخصية
INSTANCE NATIONALE DE PROTECTION DES DONNÉES PERSONNELLES
NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

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THE PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION TOOLBOX FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR

« Admis dans l'intimité des personnes, je tairai les secrets qui me seront confiés » *Serment d'Hippocrate*

Health is a sector where personal data is an intrinsic component of daily activities, not only for doctors themselves but also for all those who are responsible for managing care, at whatever level. Beyond the mere obligation of medical secrecy, it is essential that at all stages of care, people can be sure that all their personal data are protected, for the sake of the necessary trust in their careers, for the safety of care, their own safety and dignity, and that of their relatives. The protection of health data is an imperative of national sovereignty for the state, preventing this information from falling into the hands of parties who could use it for purposes that undermine the country's strategic interests.



Technologies that facilitate the work of health care workers, the necessary sharing of medical information, financial support, etc., as well as the exchange of information, carry as many risks as they do benefits; the same is true of telemedicine. It is therefore crucial that all those who intervene at any point in this transmission chain are properly aware of and trained in the risks and protective measures to be put in place.

In addition, in recent years, Tunisia has seen the development of what is known as "medical tourism" which constitutes a significant economic activity. Patients from foreign countries, particularly Europe, expect their personal data to be treated at least in the same way as in their own country.

This prompted the National Authority for Personal Data Protection (INPDP) to ask for expertise and support from the European Union and the Council of Europe within the framework of the support programme for independent authorities in Tunisia (PAII-T) to create the health "toolbox".

This "toolbox" describes the principles and obligations to be followed, the applicable legal frameworks and provides, target by target, a series of examples of information media to be adapted to the situation in which the health professional or the structure that manages these data will find themselves, but also the patients themselves or the research teams in the field of human health.

Six audiences have been targeted: doctors, health institutions (hospitals and clinics), pharmacists, health insurance, telemedicine and patients. A specific awareness-raising guide concerns the protection of personal data in the field of health research.

A web version is under development and the beta version in Arabic is already completed.

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