

This is the way data are protected

Today already, the protection of your personal health data has topmost priority. This will not change with the electronic health card either. In view of the new technical possibilities in particular, safety and data protection are rated very highly.

Protection against unauthorised access

For the future, there are plans to permit medical data to be saved on the electronic health card – that is if you want to, because future applications, such as emergency data or the electronic patient file, will be voluntary. When this function will be available in a few years' time, you alone will decide on whether and which medical data shall be saved on your card.

Without your approval, nobody will be able to access your confidential data. Your approval for data access will be provided by you entering a personal identification number, which makes the card your personal key in future. Physicians will also receive their own card, the so-called health professional pass. It is only when the health insurance card and the health professional pass of the physician have been placed in the card reader and the insured person as well as the physician have identified themselves with their respective personal identification number (PIN) that the data are decoded and can be read. The exception hereof is only the emergency data, for which the input of the PIN of the physician is sufficient. By using your PIN, you will be able to add and delete data as well. Moreover, individual information can be blanked out or can be made accessible to certain doctors only.

On the market since October 2011

Every insured person will receive his or her own electronic health card with picture. Children below the age of 15 as well as insured persons, who for health reasons cannot provide a picture, will receive a card without photograph.

The costs for your card shall be borne by your statutory health insurance institution. You will only have to bear the costs for the photograph. The health insurance institutions will get in touch with their insured members requesting the provision of a photograph which can be printed on to your electronic health card. A simple passport picture is sufficient for the purpose.

On 1st October 2011, the statutory health insurance institutions have started issuing the electronic health card. In advance, new readers have been installed in hospitals, doctor and dentist practices which can process the new electronic health cards as well as the former health insurance cards. By the year 2013, all 70 million statutory insured persons shall be provided with the new card. The new card is valid with immediate effect when you receive it from your health insurance institution.

If you have any questions with respect to your new health card, please get in touch with your health insurance institution.

The most important points on the electronic health card



This is what the new card will look like

Dear Member,

In autumn 2011, the health insurance card has been replaced by the electronic health card. The health cards issued now have been prepared for new applications, which will be developed gradually and which will be subjected to careful tests prior to introduction.

The new card does not only look differently, it will be able to do much more as well, because in contrast to its predecessor the electronic health card will be provided with a micro-processor chip, which can save and transfer information upon request. For this reason, it will offer many advantages, primarily more quality and security in medical care. Thanks to the new card, you will have the key for your personal health data with you at all times in future. The objective of the electronic health card is to permit improved and safe exchange of medical information between the care providers. You as a patient profit from a better quality of care.

The following pages will give you an overview of the electronic health card. If you have any questions with respect to the new card, please get in touch with your health insurance.

Kind regards

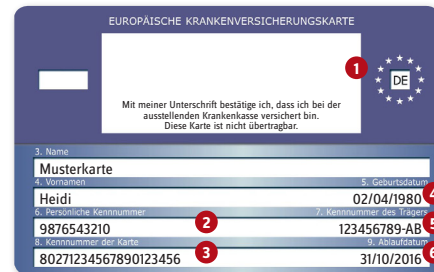
GKV-Spitzenverband

The electronic health card differs from its predecessor from the outside already. A current picture of yourself will be printed on the front side, which substantiates clearly and quickly that you are the card holder. Thus, improper claim of services is counteracted effectively.



- 1 For the time being, administrative data will be saved on the microchip as on the previous health insurance card: name, date of birth, address data, insurance number and data on how you are insured, such as member or family insurance policy-holder. A new feature will be the data on the sex of the holder. Your medical data can also be saved on the card in future. The processor chip is provided with an encryption function which protects you against unauthorised access.
- 2 Your first and last name is used to prove your identity as card holder.
- 3 Your new health insurance number, which will be issued to you along with the new card, will be retained even when changing the insurance company.
- 4 The picture guards against misuse of the card.
- 5 Standardised name of the card.

The reverse contains the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which replaces the International Health Insurance Chit in the EU and facilitates medical care in foreign European countries.



- 1 Signature field
- 2 Health insurance number
- 3 Identification number of the card
- 4 Date of birth
- 5 Identification number of the institution
- 6 Expiry date of the EHIC

This is what the new card will be able to do in future

Update of your insurance master data:

In future, the administrative data on the electronic health card can be updated online. An exchange of the card in case of address or status changes, for example, will no longer be necessary.

Emergency data:

In case of an emergency, the casualty doctor has to act quickly. On a voluntary basis, the insured person can have emergency-relevant information saved on the card, such as allergies, chronic diseases, drug intolerances as well as other important diagnoses. This application is in the planning phase.

Electronic case file

Often several medical institutions or doctors are involved in the treatment of patients. In future, all those involved will be permitted access to the documentation of the treatment case in the electronic case file in order to be able to harmonise the medical case of the patient even better.

Communication between service providers

In addition, it has been planned to introduce safe communication between physicians and institutions in health care. Today postal services are used mainly, which, among other things, leads to the fact that the co-treating physician does not receive important information in time frequently. Moreover, the medical report has to be digitised in a time-consuming process in the practice at later point in time so that the data are available in the practice software. The pre-requisites for a fast and safe electronic exchange of information are being set up now. In future, findings can be transferred from physician to physician electronically in a quick and safe manner.