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STUDIE



MAPS

Mapping Access Pathways in European Primary Care Systems: An Exploratory Comparative Study

Eine explorativ-vergleichende Studie zu digitalen Zugangswegen
in ausgewählten europäischen Gesundheitssystemen

Digital access pathways. A European comparison.

MAPS examines how selected European primary care systems organise access to specialist care and how digital initial assessment, referral and appointment coordination contribute to these pathways.

Four questions about European access pathways

Initial assessment

How are concerns assessed and appropriate next steps recommended?

Transitions

How are referral, appointment scheduling and handover to specialist care organised?

Responsibilities

Who takes responsibility for decisions and handovers between services?

Implementation and transferability

What enables these models - and what can Germany learn from them?

Denmark, the Netherlands, Estonia and Finland form the current starting framework. The final country selection remains open.



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Methods and participation.

MAPS is designed as an exploratory comparative qualitative interview study. The different systems provide a comparative perspective on German primary care.

Interviews

Conversations with experts are expected to take about 45-60 minutes. They are planned in German or English, online, by telephone or, where appropriate, in person.

Documents as context

Publicly available documents complement and contextualise the interviews. The focus is on how digital access pathways are designed and implemented in practice.

Which perspectives are relevant?

The study seeks professional experience from primary and specialist care, care organisation, system governance and digital implementation, as well as research, evaluation and institutional patient representation.

Your perspective can help explain how these models work in everyday practice and under which conditions experience may be transferable to other healthcare systems.

Study preparation · October 2026

Country selection and study procedures are being prepared. Study commencement is planned following a positive ethics opinion. This profile describes the planned approach; results are not yet available.

Interested or have a question?

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This profile does not replace participant information or consent documentation.