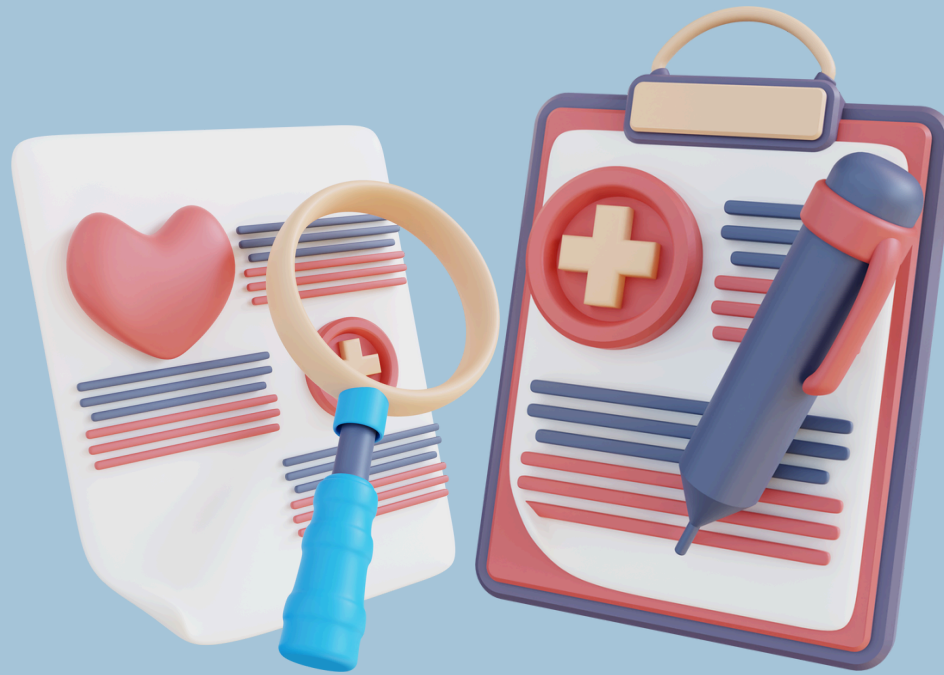# When access to health data saves lives...

The role of the European Health Data Space in better care and research.

From primary use of health data...

Alex is on holiday in France.
After a car accident he is rushed to a hospital unable to provide any information about his health.

He's unresponsive. Call 112

Got it! His health record says he's diabetic!

In his Electronic Health Record, they see that he is diabetic and adjust his treatment accordingly.

*Luckily we were able to adapt the treatment after reading that you are diabetic.
You'll recover well.*

Real-time access to a patient's medical information helps healthcare professionals deliver effective care.

But Alex's story doesn't end here...

...to secondary use of health data.

Speech bubble: What is the effect of this medication for diabetics?

Alex's anonymised health data, combined with the data of other people with diabetes, will become a valuable resource for medical research.

Speech bubble: This new insight optimises medical advice for diabetics!!

The use of anonymised patient health data for research, innovation or health policy-making is a key tool to significantly improve public health.

To protect Alex's data and privacy, the European Union has established the European Health Data Space Regulation.

It enables secure data sharing while enforcing strict privacy safeguards for citizens.

Where can I find cancer data for my research?

Who ensures the security of my health data in Belgium?

In Belgium, the Health Data Agency ensures data for secondary use is handled responsibly and that citizens' privacy is protected.
The HDA focuses on :

- Assists with data access requests;
- Ensures data quality and standardisation;
- Provides legal advice;
- Raises awareness through communication and training via the Health Data Academy.

To support the HDA, the **HeDERA project** (Health Data Enabled for Re-use Across Belgium) was launched to strengthen its capabilities and align with the European Health Data Space framework.

The HeDERA project is co-funded by the European Union and is coordinated by the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, in partnership with Sciensano.

HeDERA
Health Data Enabled for Re-use Across Belgium

Health Food Chain Safety Environment

sciensano

Co-funded by the European Union

in close collaboration with

HDA
health data agency