

# “High-quality data, a must-have, to support a better quality of healthcare”

## Do we need a legal framework to improve the quality of health data?

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Using and reusing health data holds great promise for multiple stakeholders within the healthcare ecosystem. Especially given the nature of services such as monitoring population health status, evaluating population-based health service quality, and conducting research for innovative healthcare solutions. Although the change to this data-driven environment, this “big data revolution” has not reached its full potential due to concerns related to the quality of the data. Obtaining high-quality data seems evident and straightforward but unfortunately, this doesn’t appear to be the case. One of the reasons for this is that legal standards for data quality are missing.

This paper aims to provide an updated and detailed review of data quality legislation. The findings and recommendations in this paper are a result of a review of the literature. The paper distinguishes between primary use, where the use of the data is only for professionals involved in the individual care of the patients. And secondary use, where the data is being reused, which can be important for clinical research and decision making.

Having a legal framework to establish data quality is important for the trustworthy use and re-use of high-quality health data. To avoid a negative impact on patient treatment by implementing legislation that draws resources away from the point of care, this legal framework should be aimed at the data quality assurance processes in the data life cycle. This should include mandatory quality assessment processes, metadata, and transparency. It is important to note that this legal framework will be different for primary and secondary use of data, secondary use begins when data is compiled for purposes other than the primary purpose for which the data was collected.

Data quality, which is a dynamic complexity, is amongst the most important real-world data challenges. And the requirement for a legal framework needs to become one of the crucial points in the discussion on big data in healthcare. Because data without quality can neither contribute value nor serve any useful purpose.