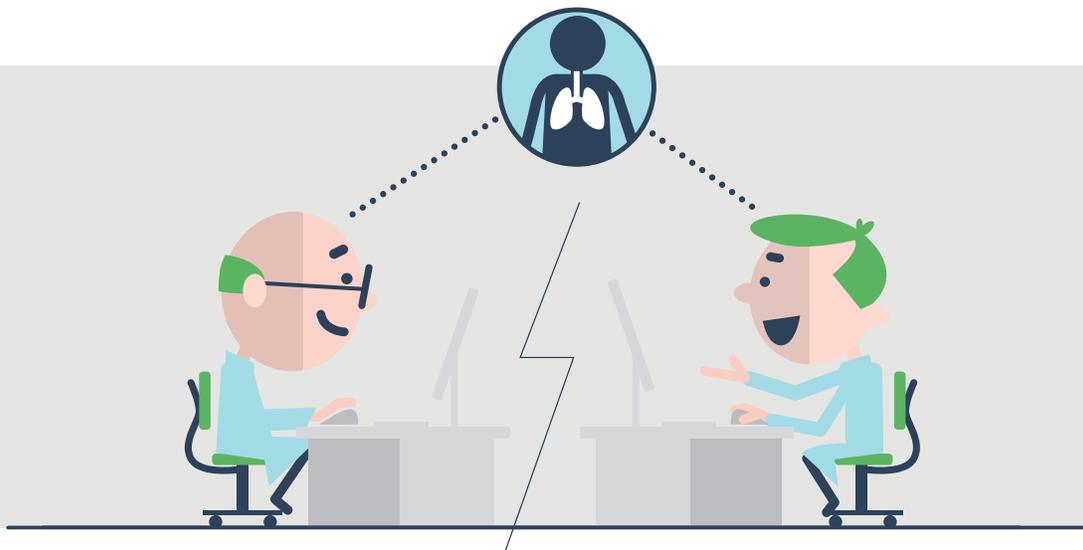
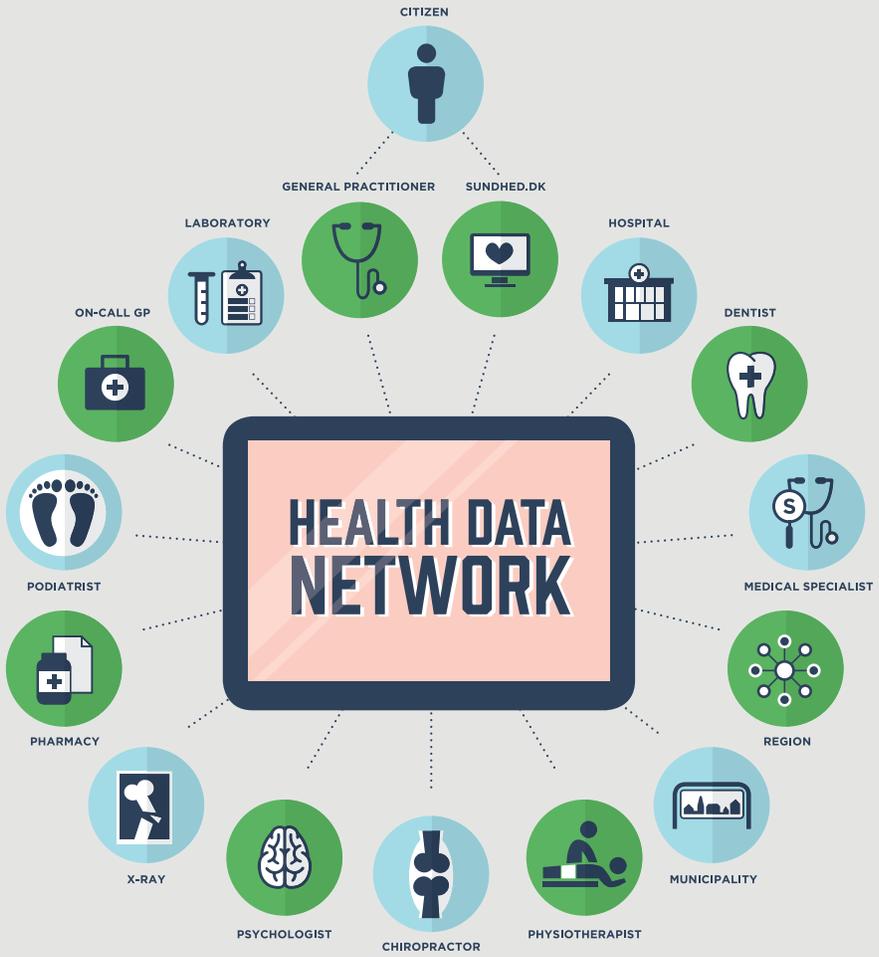


medcom



MEDCOM IN BRIEF



WHO IS MEDCOM?

MedCom supports cooperation and digital communication between different parts of the Danish healthcare sector in order to minimise medical errors and ensure the best possible service for patients. MedCom works closely with the different parts of the healthcare sector and IT vendors to find the most effective solutions.

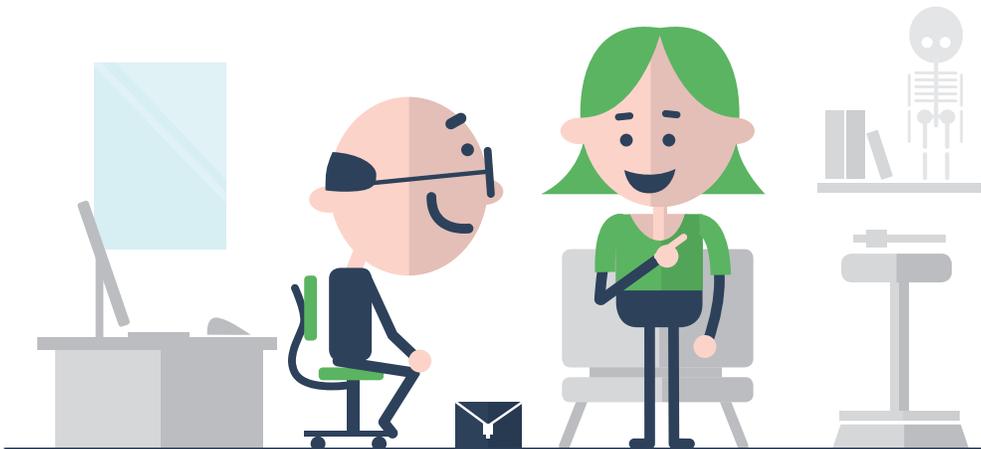
MedCom ensures that specialised IT systems can exchange the necessary health-related information in a secure environment when a patient's course of treatment involves contact with more than one part of the healthcare sector. Or when telemedicine solutions enable the patient to stay at home instead of having to come to the clinic or hospital.

By taking a pragmatic approach, MedCom ensures that the IT solutions become reality. And MedCom does not consider a project as completed until these solutions are working in everyday clinical practice.

BACKGROUND

MedCom was established in 1994 as a publicly funded, non-profit organisation. MedCom facilitates cooperation between authorities, organisations and private firms linked to the Danish healthcare sector.

MedCom is financed and owned by The Ministry of Health, Danish Regions and Local Government Denmark (the municipalities).



MEDCOM IS FINANCED IN THREE WAYS:

- **Basic funding:** MedCom receives basic financing from the three owners equally.
- **Fee-for-service:** MedCom operates public national IT systems and infrastructures which are financed by the users.
- **Project funding:** MedCom receives specific funding for various projects, both national and international, e.g. under the Finance Act and other public funding instruments and from European Commission programmes such as Horizon 2020.

MEDCOM'S ACTIVITIES

The development, implementation, operation and practical dissemination of cross-sector IT solutions is rooted in the regions, the municipalities, and the general practitioners and specialists. The implementation of a new standard for rehabilitation plans which are shared between hospitals, the patient's municipality and the general practitioner is an example of this. MedCom's principal function in relation to this kind of activity is to support local efforts with national coordination of common project plans and concrete goals. Furthermore, MedCom helps to ensure that new technical communication standards are implemented and tested in the IT systems – in close cooperation with regions, municipalities, the primary sector and IT vendors.

MedCom works in 2-year project periods. MedCom's steering committee decides on the project portfolio before a new project period starts. Moreover, MedCom has a range of ongoing activities that are carried out across project periods. These activities include ongoing dissemination, implementation of new versions of standards, monitoring, statistics, etc.

MedCom's activities can be divided into four areas:

1. CROSS-SECTOR DISSEMINATION

MedCom serves as project coordinator, provides support and information for healthcare professionals, and is involved in various national committees, including in the preparation of new initiatives and statistical monitoring of implementation and dissemination. There is a particular focus on telemedicine solutions and exchange of data, such as integration of patient-reported outcomes in electronic records and support for cooperation between municipalities and hospitals in the care of the elderly.

2. STANDARDS, TESTING AND CERTIFICATION

MedCom develops and maintains documentation of standards for data communication, arranges courses, tests and certifies IT vendors' implementation as well as offering support and consultancy. MedCom's standards include EDI letters for message-based data exchange and XML letters for message-based or online data exchange. The content of MedCom communication builds on Danish profiling of international standards and mutually recognised classification and code systems. In recent years, MedCom has maintained a specific focus on the use of HL7 standards.

3. SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

MedCom manages a number of public cross-sector IT solutions. MedCom's role involves establishing specifications of requirements, procurement and follow-up on contractual agreements, vendor management as well as facilitation of user groups and future development. MedCom is the system manager for the Danish Health Data Network (SDN), the joint video infrastructure (VDX) and the national home monitoring database.

4. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

MedCom develops proposals, and participates in and coordinates international projects funded by the European Commission, currently under the Horizon 2020 programme. MedCom also promotes Danish eHealth through conferences and visits from abroad and takes part in international standardisation initiatives.

Read more on MedCom's website: www.medcom.dk/medcom-in-english

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