Steps taken for cyber security under ABDM

Under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, health data exchange permitted only after patient consent; Digital Applications Undergo security audits and sandbox testing

ABDM Strengthens digital health ecosystem with HIECM, UHI, and EHR standards implementation via NRCeS

ABHA Portal have been made multi-lingual and user-friendly to bridge digital literacy gaps

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Under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), health data exchange between the intended stakeholders is allowed only after the patient's consent. Also, prior to integrating with ABDM, digital health applications are validated in a sandbox environment and undergo security audits such as WASA (Web Application Security Audit) ensuring that they are secure, protect sensitive patient data, and comply with ABDM's Health Data Management Policy (HDM Policy), 2020.

The Health Information Exchange and Consent Manager (HIECM) gateway has been developed which enables interoperability of health records between different health providers by prescribing common data standards. The Unified Health Interface (UHI) is another gateway with standards-based protocol for services built under ABDM to enable interoperability of health services. Besides, aiming uniform standard-based system for creation and maintenance of electronic health records (EHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released HER standards for India in December 2016 subsequent to earlier notified standards in September 2013. Further, to accelerate and promote the adoption of EHR standards in India, Centre of Excellence named as National Resource Centre for EHR standards (NRCeS) has also been established.

Various steps have been taken to ensure that the benefits of the mission reach every citizen. The ABHA portal [abha.abdm.gov.in] and the government PHR (personal health record) application (ABHA app) have been made multi-lingual and intuitive to use, to address the lack of digital literacy. The mission also provides for assisted and offline mode for creation of ABHA for areas with limited internet connectivity/hardware.

The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav stated this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

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