Kanta Services
– a unique range of digital services in social welfare and health care
Kanta produces digital services for the social welfare and healthcare sector. These services benefit the citizens as well as social welfare and healthcare service providers. The users of the services include citizens, pharmacies, and healthcare and social welfare services. The Prescription, the Patient Data Repository, the client data archive for social welfare services and My Kanta Pages are Finnish public services known as the Kanta services. Other services are constantly developed around these basic services for the benefit of citizens and social welfare and healthcare professionals. They form a statutory service entity, which is unique in Europe.
Kanta Services promote continuity and safety of patient care

With the Kanta Services, the client’s data is always up-to-date and accessible. Smooth flow of information enables better quality of care. Social welfare and healthcare services also become even more transparent when clients can check their own details in My Kanta Pages.

**Prescription**

Prescriptions are issued and signed electronically and then saved in the centralised database, the Prescription Centre. The database includes prescriptions and records of the dispensing events made by pharmacies. In Finland, all prescriptions are issued electronically.
The prescriber can verify the patient’s prescriptions and dispensed medicines and that way prevent harmful interactions and duplication of medicines. The patient is given a patient instruction sheet, which includes key information about the medicines prescribed electronically at any one time. In the pharmacy, a pharmacist with or without MSc (Pharm) (proviisori) retrieves the prescription data from the Prescription Centre on the basis of the patient’s personal identity code or the identifier on the patient instruction sheet. They will then save the dispensing data of the medicine in the Prescription Centre. The dispensing data is also printed out and enclosed with the dosage instructions of the medicine package.

- Transparency and harmonised practices increase patient safety.
- Continuity of care and medication management are improved.
- Electronic prescriptions cannot be misplaced or forged.
- Patients can check their prescriptions and the medication dispensed with them in My Kanta Pages (kanta.fi).

**E-prescription in Europe**

It is also possible to receive medicines with a Finnish e-prescription progressively in other European countries. Clients can buy medicines from a pharmacy with an e-prescription in European countries that are able to dispense electronic prescriptions issued in another country. Initially, prescription medicines can be purchased in Estonia. We are forerunners in Europe in this regard, too.

**Pharmaceutical Database**

All prescribers and pharmacies use data based on the Pharmaceutical Database. This increases the pharmaceutical safety of patients. The Pharmaceutical Database includes the necessary and up-to-date information about medicines, their price and reimbursability, mutually substitutable medicinal products and the reimbursable basic topical ointments and clinical nutritional preparations with respect to prescribing and dispensing of medicines. The database is maintained by Kela.
Patient Data Repository
The Patient Data Repository is a Kanta service in healthcare, used with the patient data system on a daily basis. It enables sharing of data between healthcare organisations, central archiving of patient data and long-term storage of data. Patient data is archived in a uniform format, which enables transferability of data from one system to another and improves availability of data in the healthcare units taking part in patient care.

- The data is safe. Data exchange is encrypted, authentication requires a professional card, and log data is monitored.
- When the results of previous studies can be utilised, overlapping examinations and treatment can be avoided, which will save money.
- It is easy to follow your own health data in My Kanta Pages.

It is easier for patients to choose their medical unit when the patient data is accessible to different healthcare providers.

**Patient data management service**

The patient’s consents and refusals to disclose information are recorded in the patient data management service.

**Archive of imaging data**

The patient’s imaging studies are recorded in the archive of imaging data. Imaging studies and care documents can be retrieved with the service.

The service is used by healthcare organisations that perform imaging studies and by organisations that issue reports on and utilise the studies.

**Archiving of old patient data**

The service enables utilisation of the organisation’s old patient data in treatment situations. Old data means patient data that has been recorded in the healthcare data systems before the introduction of the Patient Data Repository service.

When the old data has been archived in the Patient Data Repository, it can then be removed from the source system and stored electronically in Kanta.

**Query and forwarding service**

With the query and forwarding service, certificates and reports pertaining to the patient data can also be transmitted to operators outside the healthcare services.
Client data archive for social welfare services

Client data in social welfare services can be used and archived with the client data archive for social welfare services. Client-related data created in the social welfare services is recorded in the service.

The archiving of client data is implemented in stages. Documents saved in the archive in the first stage are only accessible by the controller in question, but the client data will also be made available to other controllers at a later date. In future, clients will also be able to view their own social welfare data in My Kanta Pages.

Therefore, client data recorded by social welfare services will be more widely available to clients and social welfare professionals, and it can also be utilised, for example, in statistics and the development of services.
My Kanta Pages

My Kanta Pages is an online service where citizens can see their own prescription and patient data recorded by professionals regardless of whether they have used public or private healthcare services. In the service, you can send a request for a repeat prescription to the healthcare service.

The person’s information is shown in the service after an electronic prescription has been issued for them or their information has been saved in the Patient Data Repository.

In My Kanta Pages, you can give your consent to sharing data recorded in the Kanta services with other healthcare service providers. It is also possible to save a living will or an organ donation testament in My Kanta Pages. The information is accessible by healthcare services.
Kanta PHR

The Personal Health Record (Kanta PHR) is a national data repository, in which clients can save their wellbeing data. Wellbeing data means the client’s measurement, lifestyle and activity data related to their wellbeing and health promotion.

Wellbeing data can be recorded in Kanta PHR with approved applications. Clients can view their wellbeing data in My Kanta Pages. The data can also be shared with social welfare and healthcare services at a later date with the client’s consent.
Client test service

The client test service is aimed at information system suppliers and their client testing organisations. The service involves testing of system functionalities against the production-like Prescription Centre, client data archive for social welfare services, Patient Data Repository, Archive of Imaging Data and the patient data management service before the certification of information systems. Joint testing of the systems also takes place in the client test service. A separate client test environment is used in the Kanta PHR service for the approval testing of applications to be integrated with the service.

Information is safe

Social welfare and health data is classified as sensitive information. All sharing of data between professionals and the Kanta services is encrypted between identified parties. The identity of all users of the service is ensured with strong electronic authentication.

Patients can monitor the use and sharing of their own data. In My Kanta Pages, clients can see which organisations have viewed and processed their prescription data or where their social welfare or health data has been shared. Clients can also request more detailed information from the social welfare and healthcare services with regard to who have processed and viewed their personal data.
Finland leads the way in international comparison
Finland has been at the forefront in international comparisons of information technology in healthcare services for several years. In the recent OECD comparison, Finland again ranked first in the use of electronic patient records and e-prescriptions.

What is exceptional in the international comparisons is that Finns are very active in using their personal health data. According to statistics on My Kanta Pages, citizens are constantly increasing their use of the system and are interested in monitoring their own health data online. Finland is the top country in this respect, too.

Citizens’ interest has grown because new data contents for the clients of social welfare and healthcare services are being added to the information systems and that way also in My Kanta Pages. The services are also constantly developed with legislative guidance. We are also now focusing on improving the availability of Kanta data and the utilisation of citizens’ own wellbeing data via the Kanta services. In the future, it will also be possible to utilise the data for the needs of research, innovation activities and knowledge management safely and in compliance with the criteria outlined by the data protection regulation. The recently approved act on secondary use of health and social data is among the first in Europe.

This is a good basis to continue our work.

Minna Saario
Director
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Department for Steering of Healthcare and Social Welfare
Kanta Services are available to the public and private healthcare services, pharmacies and citizens in stages. They are built in cooperation with several national actors: Kela, the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), the Population Register Centre, the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health Valvira, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, which is responsible for the strategic direction, as well as healthcare service providers, pharmacies and system suppliers.