

The facts

Who receives funding?

Consortia consisting of at least two university hospitals and possible further partners (e.g. research institutions, higher education institutions, businesses, private clinics or other health care providers)

What is funded?

Conceptual phase (9 months):

Elaboration of strategic plans for

- data exchange and data use
- establishment of data integration centres
- concrete use cases of beneficial IT solutions
- positioning medical informatics as a progressive field in research, teaching and continuing education

Development and networking phase (4 years):

- Establishment of data integration centres
- Development and implementation of IT solutions for one or more use cases
- Funding for junior research groups

Deadline

31 March 2016 for submission of proposals for the conceptual phase

Further information

→ www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de/de/medizininformatik.php



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www.bmbf.de/en



Medical Informatics Funding Scheme

Networking data – improving health care



“ Medical informatics helps us to collect, manage, store, process and share the data, information and knowledge in medicine and health care in a systematic way. Medical informatics links valuable

information in patient care records and biomedical research and makes it usable for patients' benefit. The BMBF funding scheme will strengthen medical informatics and support the development of an innovative IT system at university hospitals. I am convinced that the university hospitals which participate in this planned exchange of data between research and the patient care sector today will be enjoying a clear competitive advantage in 15 years' time. ”

Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka
Federal Minister of Education and Research

Medical informatics ...

... is the “science of systematic collection, maintenance, storage, retrieval and provision of the data, information and knowledge in medicine and the health care sector. It is driven by the desire to achieve the best health care possible”.

(Definition by the German Association for Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology [GMDS])





The opportunity

Taking advantage of digitalization in medicine

Digitalization is spreading quickly to the health care sector. More and more medical data, whether X-rays, medical records or blood parameters, is available in digital form nowadays. At the same time, biomedical research is generating ever larger volumes of data. Together this data has the potential to make great improvements in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

Up to now, Germany has made too little use of the potential that digitalization holds. Research and patient care data is rarely exchanged or compiled in any efficient manner, nor is it linked to current medical knowledge. Not only the size but also the heterogeneity of data sets pose great challenges for researchers and doctors. The different locations and quality of data, formats or standards also complicate consolidation from the various sources.

The goal

Linking data and generating medical knowledge

The “Medical Informatics” funding scheme is intended to take advantage of the opportunities of digitalization for the field of medicine. Its goal is to improve research opportunities and patient care through innovative IT solutions. These solutions will enable the exchange and use of research and patient care data beyond the boundaries of institutions and physical locations.

Innovative IT solutions will help researchers and doctors to exploit the potential of the burgeoning amount of medical data. Data from research and health care will be translated into new knowledge which can be used at the patient’s bedside.

The “Medical Informatics” funding scheme also supports the training of junior researchers in data sciences. The higher education institutions and university medical centres which receive funding are also expected to be engaged in their own research, teaching and further training activities. All in all, medical informatics in Germany will develop into a progressive field.

Aims of the funding scheme

- Improve research opportunities and patient care through innovative IT solutions
- Intensify the exchange and sharing of data between the research community and health care delivery system
- Position medical informatics in research, teaching and continuing education to meet future needs



Getting there

Developing and applying innovative IT solutions

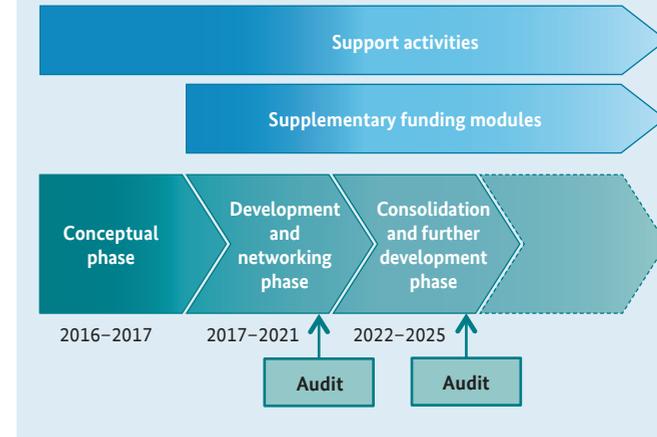
Funding is provided to consortia which seek to make research data and health care data available to each other. University medical centres are the primary target group of funding because this is where patient care and clinical research are most closely connected. Each consortium must involve the participation of at least two university medical centres. Further partners may include research institutes, higher education institutions, businesses, private clinics or other health care providers.

Data integration centres are a key element of the funding scheme. They are to be established and interlinked by university hospitals and all other partners who want to input research or health care data. The data integration centres will create the technical and organizational conditions which are necessary for the multi-site data exchange between health care and clinical and biomedical research.

Another core element of the funding scheme is the development of IT solutions for use cases, for which the exchange of data will provide the basis. Examples of use cases include: IT-based support of the diagnosis and choice of treatment of rare diseases, or the development of individualized cancer treatment.

An initial nine-month conceptual phase will be devoted to the development of strategic plans for the data integration centres and use cases, for data exchange and shared use of data in the consortium and beyond. These plans will also aim to position medical informatics as a progressive field in research, teaching and continuing education. The most convincing plans will be implemented in a four-year development and networking phase. Use cases will serve to demonstrate the added value of data exchange and the developed IT solutions at the end of the development and networking phase. Solutions which have proved successful

Medical Informatics Funding Scheme



can be applied on a broader scale and at other locations in a subsequent phase of consolidation and further development.

The details and terms of both the conceptual phase and development and networking phase are laid down in the first call for proposals.

The vision

A better, data-based health care delivery system

Ultimately, the different players in the health care system will be able to make use of existing data to derive practical knowledge which suits their activities and needs. What this means for the patient: At any point within the health care system – whether at the family doctor’s, specialist’s or hospital – the patient and doctors reach decisions together, decisions which are based on all the relevant data stored in the health care system and the medical knowledge which can be derived from it. In other words, if the data is used in a meaningful way, the right person in patient care will have the right information at the right time.