

PharmAccess Group

The PharmAccess Approach to Health Data Governance

The [PharmAccess Group](#) is an international non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening health markets with digital technology. We support efforts towards universal health coverage (UHC), through our integrated approach, working public-private partners and by harnessing digital innovations. We are headquartered in the Netherlands, while our programs are implemented through our offices in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania.

PharmAccess' approach to health data governance is based on making health information systems work for Africa by improving the use of data to provide safe and quality care, increase access, and improve the utilization of performance indicators to advance healthcare delivery while protecting the individual patient. We believe that patient's rights are human rights and our guiding principles are tied to the United Nations (UN) [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), the World Health Organization (WHO) [Declaration on the Promotion of Patient Rights](#), and local publications such as the [Patients' Bill of Rights](#) in Nigeria.

PharmAccess is working with national health insurers in Africa, such as the [National Health Insurance Scheme \(NHIS\)](#) in Nigeria and other regional health schemes to improve their data management capacities through the development of frameworks and policies for health data processing. We also support the development of (digital) data analysis portals to help regulate health insurance agents, as well as provide actionable insights for decision-making.

[SafeCare™](#), our quality-of-care methodology utilizes big data analyses to inspect and develop automated quality improvement plans for health facilities in resource-poor countries. These plans are specific to the health facility and provide a pathway to improve health service delivery and a dashboard to monitor progress. Over 4,000 clinics have used SafeCare across Africa, seeing 5 million monthly patients visits.

[CarePay](#), affiliate organization, provides a platform for managing health financing data. Working with state governments, private health insurance organizations, and telecommunications companies in Kenya and Nigeria, they have been able to transform health insurance data management and improve the quality of decision making and feedback in the industry.

Concerns about patient privacy and the safe use of data are important to us, so we have ensured that we are fully compliant with provisions of local data protection regulations (such as the [Nigerian Data Protection Regulation](#)), as well as the European [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#). We have an in-house multinational data protection and compliance team that reviews all projects to ensure that patient information and data is safe, secure, and always used in the best interests of the patient.

As the world relies more on the automated analyses of health data to make informed decisions for the patient as well as for the health system, health data governance policies and frameworks will become even more necessary to address patients' information privacy and security. Successful processes and practices that demonstrate how health data can be used ethically across international and local health programs will also be required as evidence of satisfactory standards in action. PharmAccess is ready to lean in and showcase our approach as a demonstration of best practices for the global community.

At the international level PharmAccess engages with global thought leaders at events on digital health and data, while also playing a key role in leading digital health coalitions such as the Digital Connected Care Coalition (DCCC) and Transform Health.

Our Ghana Country Director serves on the WHO's Roaster of Experts on Digital Health, while our Nigeria Country Director is on the Lancet and Financial Times Commission on Governing Health Futures: Growing up in a digital world.