
CALL FOR TENDER – RESEARCH REPORTS ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN HEALTHCARE (FROM A PATIENT’S PERSPECTIVE)

1. EPF – Background Information

The European Patients' Forum (EPF) is a European patient umbrella organisation. Our members are the backbone of our work: their perspective brings an irreplaceable added value to our policy and advocacy activities.

We currently represent 77 patient organisations representing 19 countries and an estimated 150 million patients across Europe.

EPF works on a wide range of topics of high relevance to the patient community including the digitalisation of health and care in all its aspects, from health data to telemedicine and, recently, also engaging in discussion on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare.

2. Importance of further research of AI in healthcare

AI together with big data, has the potential to support and transform care delivery, bringing change to several aspects of the healthcare value chain: population health, healthcare operations and healthcare-related innovation. Reports and studies highlight several key areas where AI may possibly have a direct impact on the patient: self-care, prevention and wellness, triage and early diagnosis, diagnostics, clinical decision. However, there may be unrealistic expectations, challenges and a gap between innovation and health systems receptiveness and acceptance, for healthcare professionals and patients, as confirmed by the results of a recent survey with EPF members (forthcoming 2021). AI depends on the availability of large amounts of good quality data. If the available data is insufficient, of poor quality, inconsistent and especially biased, this can strongly limit the potential of AI to achieve full impact.

AI in healthcare carries specific challenges concerning risks of overdiagnosis or misdiagnosis, leading to unnecessary or wrong treatments which may have impact on mental and physical wellbeing of patients. In the context of potential errors, liability and the concept of 'high-risk AI application' emerge crucial challenges that must be tackled going towards a broader application of AI in healthcare.

AI can reach its potential positive impact only if coupled with adequate skill training policies for healthcare professionals and increased levels of digital health literacy and understanding for patients, to increase acceptance and trust. Increased level of knowledge on AI would tackle another key challenge identified in our EPF survey on AI: the current lack of co-design of AI-based solution in healthcare.

3. Purpose of the Tender

The challenges described in the previous section should be addressed in the upcoming European legislation and initiatives on AI. A challenge in itself is constituted by ensuring the inclusion of informed patients' voice in the design of AI legislation, in particular for the healthcare sector, to ensure that potential negative impacts, risks and needs are taken into full consideration.

There are not sufficient existing reports from point of view of patients that focus directly on exploring the potential impact of AI. The aim of this report would be to serve as a basis for upcoming policy and advocacy work for both EPF and for national and European disease-specific members.

The reports will be made available on a dedicated resource page available on eu-patient.eu called the [AI Knowledge Hub](#).

4. Key Objectives and Methodology

4.1. Key Objectives

A report on the current state of play of AI in healthcare from a policy and legislative point of view, covering both European and National level.

- Such report should provide an at a glance view on the impact of current and upcoming legislation on Artificial Intelligence.
- The report should also highlight the existing interlinks between policies and legislation with a direct or indirect impact on the deployment of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare (e.g., data protection or assessment of medical devices or other digital health products)
- The report should therefore look both at AI-focused legislation and policies to explain where and how they might have an impact or link to AI deployment in Healthcare. On the other hand, the report should also highlight where existing broader legislation (e.g., on digital, healthcare innovation and assessment) might have an impact on the deployment of AI in healthcare.
- The report should adopt a public health perspective and highlight areas where commercial interests may potentially come into conflict with this.
- Particular attention should be dedicated to where legislation might have direct or indirect impact on patients' lives.
- The report should be written in a language that is simple, clear and concise, following health literacy principles.

A report on opportunities and challenges related to the deployment of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare, with a particular focus on the patients' point of view

- The report should cover the key opportunities linked to the deployment of AI in healthcare, providing a key picture of where AI could improve patients' lives at different levels (from self-management to diagnostic to support of healthcare professionals' practices). Such

opportunities should be explained in a simple and evidence-based manner, providing a series of concrete examples illustrating such benefits

- The report should cover all key challenges and risks related to the deployment of AI in healthcare from several point of views.
 - Particular attention should be dedicated to ethical questions related to the deployment of AI in healthcare.
 - The question of liability should also be at the centre of the analysis of key challenges and risks.
- The report should adopt a public health perspective and highlight areas where commercial interests may potentially come into conflict with this.
- The report should dedicate particular attention on concrete impacts, concerns and views of patients.
- Given the indication received during the recent exchanges with the patient community (e.g., the first EPF survey on AI), the report should also dedicate a space to analyse and assess the new 'triangle' relationship between AI – Patients – Healthcare Professionals.
- The report should be written in a language that is simple, clear and concise, following health literacy principles.
- The reports should be developed keeping in mind the target audience of European and national patient advocates. Therefore, they should provide a solid evidence and reference basis but be easily understandable and 'actionable' (e.g., used to develop advocacy campaigns/policy positions) by individuals with basic/limited specific technical and legal knowledge on AI/Data in Healthcare.

4.2. Methodology

The reports should be developed through:

- Desk research
- Engagement (e.g., interviews) with national or European experts/policymakers, healthcare professionals, patients, and patients' representatives.

5. Expected Outputs

1. A report on the current state of play of AI in healthcare from a policy and legislative point of view, covering both European and National level.
2. A report on opportunities and challenges linked to the deployment of AI in Healthcare.

For both reports, there is an expectation for both a 'full version' (20-30 pages) and a brief 2/3 pages summary.

Bidders could create a proposal to deliver only one of the two expected outputs, adjusting budget and methodology accordingly. In case the bidder would propose to deliver both reports, these should be two separate documents.

6. Participation in the Tendering Procedure

6.1 TENDER PROCESS

EPF reserves the right to conduct the tender process and select the successful tender. EPF is not bound contractually or in any way to a bidder to this request for tender until EPF and the successful winner have entered into a written contract.

6.2 DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

The tender proposals (maximum 5 pages long, not including eventual supporting documents such as Curricula Vitae) should include:

- An outline of the approach that will be taken to establishing and delivering the report/s;
- The technology and methodology used to achieve the report/s;
- Details of the individual(s) who will lead, manage and deliver the project and details of their experience, formal qualification and knowledge of AI within healthcare from a patient perspective;
- Detailed costs;
- Timetable and quality gates for the project;
- Background material to demonstrate the previous experience and range of work;
- Contact details of two referees;
- Applicants must have excellent knowledge of the English language.

Document applications must be sent no later than **5th of August 2021**. Please contact Michele Calabro at michele.calabro@eu-patient.eu if there are any queries regarding the call.

Closing Date for acceptance of application is 5th of August 2021

Applications can be submitted by post to European Patients' Forum, Chaussée d'Etterbeek 180, 1040 Etterbeek, Belgium or by email to michele.calabro@eu-patient.eu.
EPF is not responsible for any proposal not received due to technical faults.

5.3 TENDER EVALUATION

Participation in this tendering procedure is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons fulfilling the above-mentioned eligibility criteria and language requirements. EPF may, at its discretion, extend the closing date and time of the tender.

The selection procedure will be based on the principles of equal treatment, fairness and transparency and on expertise (70%) and price (30%).

All applicants will receive acknowledgement of receipt of their tender and will be informed of the outcomes of the selection process within 14 days following the deadline date. EPF is not obliged to provide reasons for its decision to shortlist; accept or reject any particular tender.

Offers to the tender will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Proposed solution to our request based on requirements provided by EPF	35
Credibility and proven expertise in the area of Artificial Intelligence	25
Project Planning	10
Price	30

5.4 EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Candidates shall be excluded from participation in this procurement procedure if:

- a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;
- c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the EPF can justify;
- d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the EPF or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- e) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Union's budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

5.5 SCHEDULE

The assignment shall start as from the date of signature of both contracting parties and shall be completed by **December 2021**.

Tender submission and indicative schedule of the work are as follows:

Launch Tender	<i>EPF</i>	July 2021
Close of the Tender	<i>Applicant</i>	August 2021
Selection of the applicant	<i>EPF</i>	August 2021
Briefing Meeting and Contract Signature	<i>EPF and Applicant</i>	August/Early September 2021
Delivery of work plan and report framework	<i>Applicant</i>	Early September 2021
Delivery of semi-final draft	<i>Applicant</i>	Mid-October 2021
Delivery of final report for review	<i>Applicant</i>	December 2021

7. Terms of Payment

Prices must be fixed amounts in Euro and will not be subject to revision. The amount of VAT should be shown separately on the invoice.

Costs incurred in preparing and submitting tenders are borne by the tenderers and cannot be reimbursed.

8. Quality issues

In delivering the service the tenderer shall ensure the highest quality standards of which EPF shall be the sole judge.

9. Confidentiality and conflict of interest

The Tenderer undertakes that they will not at any time, either before or after the termination of this service, use or disclose or communicate to any person confidential information relating to the affairs

of EPF. This restriction shall continue to apply after the termination of the service without limit in point of time.

10. Terms and conditions

EPF reserve the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, to advertise for new proposals, to abandon the need for services, and to cancel or amend this call for tender at any time prior to the execution of the written contract. EPF reserves the right to waive any formalities in the call for tender process. EPF may respond to questions or provide information from tenderers and is under no obligation to provide such responses or information to all other tenderers.

By submitting a proposal, the tenderer agrees that:

- EPF may copy the proposal for purposes of facilitating the evaluation of the proposal and agrees that such copying will not violate the rights of any third party.
- It will not bring any claim or have any cause of action against EPF based in any misunderstanding concerning the information provided or concerning EPF's failure, neglect or otherwise, to provide the bidder with pertinent information as intended by this call for tender.

The accomplishment of a tendering procedure imposes no obligation on EPF to award the contract. Should the invitation to tender cover several items or lots, EPF reserves the right to award a contract for only some of them. EPF shall not be liable for any compensation with respect to applicants whose tenders have not been accepted. Nor shall it be so liable if it decides not to award the contract.

The estimated date for the signature of the contract will be in July 2021.

11. Contacting Persons and Contracting Authority

For more information, please contact:

- **Michele Calabro**, Policy Advisor
michele.calabro@eu-patient.eu

Answers to questions will be sent to the question originator and published on [this website](#).

Contracting Authority:

European Patients' Forum (EPF)

Chaussée d'Etterbeek, 180

1040 Brussels – Belgium

www.eu-patient.eu