

**National Health Authority**  
**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**

**Government of India releases the Draft Health Data Management Policy of the National Digital Health Mission for public consultation**

**Press Release**

**New Delhi, 26 August, 2020:** The National Health Authority (NHA) has released the Draft Health Data Management Policy of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) in the public domain. The draft of the policy has been released on the official website of National Digital Health Mission ([https://ndhm.gov.in/stakeholder\\_consultations/ndhm\\_policies](https://ndhm.gov.in/stakeholder_consultations/ndhm_policies)) and will be available for public comments and feedback till 03.09.2020. The policy is in the draft stage and will be finalized after receiving suggestions from members of the general public.

**Dr. Indu Bhushan, Chief Executive Officer, National Health Authority said,** *“The Draft Health Data Management Policy is the maiden step in realizing NDHM’s guiding principle of “Security and Privacy by Design” for the protection of individuals’ data privacy. It encompasses various aspects pertaining to health data like data privacy, consent management, data sharing & protection etc.”*

One of the main objectives of this draft policy is to provide adequate guidance and to set out a framework for the secure processing of personal and sensitive personal data of individuals who are a part of the national digital health ecosystem in compliance with all applicable laws and international standards such as ISO/TS 17975:2015 that defines the set of frameworks of consent for the collection and processing of health data by healthcare practitioners and other entities and other relevant standards related to data interoperability and data sharing.

**Highlighting the significance of the policy and its potential impact, Dr. Bhushan added,** *“Government of India is working to ensure strong privacy of health data and therefore, we are circulating the Draft Health Data Management Policy of NDHM to increase awareness of the importance of data privacy and instill a privacy-oriented mindset among all the stakeholders and participants of the ecosystem. I look forward to feedback, suggestions, and inputs from experts and members of the general public to help us finalise the policy make it and hence, the implementation of the mission stronger and more effective.”*

The NDHM was announced on the occasion of the 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India, by the Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The vision of NDHM is to create a national digital health ecosystem which enables timely and efficient access to inclusive, affordable, and safe healthcare to all citizens. NDHM will significantly improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of health services in India.

For more details on NDHM, visit website: <https://ndhm.gov.in/>

**About National Health Authority (NHA):**

The National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex agency of the Government of India responsible for the design, roll- out, implementation and management of Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and the National Digital Health Mission across the country. NHA functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family welfare and is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and has 11 members. Inter-alia, its functions include formulation of PMJAY policies, development of operational guidelines, implementation mechanisms, coordination with State Governments, monitoring and oversight, among others.