The European Cloud in Health Advisory Council,\textsuperscript{1} aware of the need to deploy information technology including cloud computing in modern healthcare, and having assessed different Member State approaches and best practices concerning regulation and support of the cloud, hereby affirms:\textsuperscript{2}

\textbf{Recognising} that patients across the EU want and deserve better, smarter and more mobile healthcare, and stronger protection of their health data,

\textbf{Conscious} that modern healthcare across the EU is a complex mix of different models and priorities, but that virtually all healthcare providers face significant pressure to modernise, drive down costs and enhance the quality of care,

\textbf{Further} recognising that EU Member States have set themselves, at Union level, the ambitious aim of enabling and improving cross-border care,

\textbf{Certain} that expanded use of information technology, particularly cloud-based and mobile solutions, is imperative if healthcare providers are to meet the challenges ahead; and that compared to paper-based or on-premises solutions, cloud and mobile solutions can dramatically improve information management and sharing, enable data analysis to provide much-needed insights for preventive care and treatment, and significantly enhance security in the modern healthcare context.

\textbf{Acknowledging} that without the use of cloud computing, many healthcare organisations simply will not have the know-how, technology or resources to deliver those connected, cost-effective and scalable data-driven systems, all the while keeping patient data secure, private, and available at the right time, to the right healthcare provider,

\textsuperscript{1} The Cloud in Health Advisory Council is a cross-industry, vendor neutral group committed to fostering cloud adoption in order to empower healthcare organisations, providers, patients and citizens to achieve better health outcomes.

\textsuperscript{2} The Call to Action represents a consensus view of the Cloud in Health Advisory Council, developed based on input from members during meetings of the council and through review of prior drafts of this document. The Call to Action is intended as an initial encouragement to policy makers to move toward policies that better balance opportunity and risk associated with new cloud and mobile technologies that are being adopted in the health sector.
Noting that despite its many advantages, cloud adoption is in relatively early stages in the healthcare sector, as a result of factors including complex and sometimes out-of-date regulations, and differing views and understandings of the regulatory environment by regulators, healthcare providers / intermediaries, and cloud service providers.\(^3\)

Observing that some Member States maintain rules that promote local storage of health data, or oblige cloud service providers to undergo divergent and sometimes duplicative national accreditations or certifications,

Further observing that while other heavily regulated sectors, such as financial services, have faced similar challenges, their progress in tackling these issues has been exemplary by comparison,

We call upon European policymakers, legislators and authorities to work together to deliver on the following four policy recommendations, all aimed at facilitating cloud adoption in health, for the benefit of patients and carers across Europe:

1. **Lead by example through pro-cloud in health policies.**
   Cloud-first policymaking at European Commission and Member State levels is integral to demonstrating to patients and healthcare providers the viability and benefits of cloud technologies. Leading by example also includes the allocation of “cloud-ready” funding to the healthcare sector, including through European Structural Funds, and a focus on improving healthcare professionals’ e-skills.

2. **Modernise and clarify regulations and rules for cloud computing in health, so healthcare providers can understand the rules of the road.**
   Substantive regulations and related guidance should be updated and clarified, by reference to global security standards where appropriate, so that healthcare organisations and cloud service providers have clear direction and a shared understanding of the applicable requirements.

3. **Simplify cloud service compliance procedures to get cloud solutions into every healthcare ecosystem faster.**
   The use of less resource-intensive and duplicative certification and auditing mechanisms will better enable even the smallest, most agile cloud providers to efficiently demonstrate that their services implement adequate technical and organisational measures to protect data. For example, cloud service providers should be able to leverage existing third-party audits and certifications, rather than undergo redundant local assessments.

4. **Align cloud policies and standards across Member State borders to better enable EU-wide cloud-driven health solutions.**
   Greater policy alignment and interoperability among Member States will help address the national regulatory divergence that is inhibiting pan-EEA provision of healthcare, and restricting access to larger (EEA-wide) economies of scale in cloud computing.

\(^3\) See also [https://mscorpmedia.azureedge.net/mscorpmedia/2016/04/Accelerate_Cloud-EU_Paper_with-logo.pdf](https://mscorpmedia.azureedge.net/mscorpmedia/2016/04/Accelerate_Cloud-EU_Paper_with-logo.pdf)
Supporters - The Call to Action represents a consensus view of the Cloud in Health Advisory Council, developed based on input from members during meetings and through review of prior drafts of this document. It is intended as an initial encouragement to policy makers to move toward pro-cloud policies that better balance opportunity and risk associated with new cloud and mobile technologies that are being adopted in the health sector.

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