The regulation of technology discourages novelty and holds Drug Health Service back during COVID-19

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Background and Aims: Technology has played an important role in providing appropriate interventions for Drug health patients, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The use of technology in these settings is however not well regulated but needs to be framed in the context of legal, ethical, and medical considerations. This study outlines current legislation, case law, and policy and identifies specific issues that arise from the use of technology platforms in Drug Health.

Methods: A search of perspectives on Australian technology law, legal frameworks, and government regulation was performed. All relevant and credible sources were identified and the latest regulation with relevant cases is presented.

Results: A recent advance in Australia is the Australian Digital Health Agency which combines data and technology safely to work with Drug Health patients and medical professionals. This technology is supported by the Department of Health. The Australian Government amended the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) thereby extending the legislation to cover information disclosed in doctor-patient consultations. The Office of the Australian Privacy Commissioner is empowered to investigate potential breaches of privacy and apply to the Federal Court for enforcement, including the payment of compensation. A range of legal issues including. confidentiality, privacy, and data security are vital considerations when dealing with Drug Health patients.

Conclusion: Application of the mandatory legal framework is essential in the context of drug health, while the process must be transparent and auditable.

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