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Legal issues concerning the processing of big health data in the light of the General Data European Regulation 679/2016

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This paper aims to explore major legal issues arising from the collection and processing of Health Big Data in the light of the new European secondary legislation for the protection of personal data of natural persons, placing emphasis on the General Data Protection Regulation 679/2016. Key point of this research is that the application of some provisions of GPDR to Big Health Data may both absolve the data controller of his legal obligations and deprive the data subject of his rights data subject's rights. Moreover, data subject's rights are heavily impacted by the use of AI, algorithms and technologies that reclaim health data for further use, resulting in sometimes ambiguous results that have substantial impact on individuals. In this respect, this paper identifies and systematizes the legal provisions concerned, offering interpretative solutions that tackle dangers concerning data subject's rights while embracing the opportunities that Big Health Data has to offer. The findings are the fruit of a current research project through the use of an innovative methodological approach that focuses on case studies and bibliographic research that addresses legal and technical aspects arising from the processing of Big Health Data. The research project is conducted by a three-member research team at the Faculty of Law of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and funded by the Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

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