



for regular general practitioners, while the information they have recorded will be easier to use in clinical research, quality work in health institutions and public health research.

The precondition is, as always, that the patients must approve the use of their own record information for research purposes. It is naturally possible to opt out. In this case, the regular general practitioner can easily remove the relevant record from the data analysis.

Until now, Yigzaw has only run the software in a test environment, and he hopes to have the opportunity to try it out in practise quite soon.

"There are around 1,500 medical offices in the country. If they all use this computer program, we can produce continually updated statistics in the areas in which we want to research," he says.

#### **Easier to carry out surveys**

Kassaye has also developed and tested a method that can change the way we collect and analyse digital surveys. The method ensures that the participants' record their answers on their computing devices and their responses are collected and analysed in such a way no respondent's responses are revealed.

The data collection and analysis are also significantly improved, while the privacy of the participants is now better protected.

"Both methods have applications in many areas. I believe that these tools could also be useful for analysing business data distributed across multiple institutions without sharing sensitive information," says the researcher.

#### **Reference:**

Kassaye, Y.Y. Towards Practical Privacy-Preserving Distributed Statistical Computation of Health Data. Doctoral Thesis at UiT (2016)

 [It is very difficult for researchers to obtain data from electronic health records. However, a researcher has now developed a computer program that gives researchers ability to analyse the data, while ensuring that the patient's privacy is protected. \(Illustration photo: Colourbox\)](#) [5]

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