

## Introduction

This briefing examines digital health developments from 7 to 27 April 2026, focusing on US and EU/DACH markets. The period was characterized by significant public funding announcements in Europe alongside continued momentum for US reimbursement models, with relatively quiet private VC and M&A activity.

### 1. Investment climate and funding signals

The standout development was the **European Commission's €63.2 million Digital Europe Programme calls**, announced 21 April 2026. Of this, €24 million targets "digital health services" under the European Health Data Space (EHDS) initiative, funding interoperable platforms and patient datamanagement solutions. An additional €9 million supports AI-based medical image screening for cancer and cardiovascular diseases, with project deadlines in October 2026. These non-dilutive funds signal Europe's strategic push toward digital health infrastructure readiness.

In the US, **Yuzu Health raised \$35 million Series A** to build payer infrastructure enabling real-time claims processing and provider credentialing. This reflects investor preference for "plumbing" solutions that solve acute operational pain points rather than consumer-facing apps.

**Context:** Public grants increasingly fill the VC funding gap, prioritizing regulatory alignment (EHDS, MDR) over early discovery.

### 2. Reimbursement and policy developments

#### United States

**CMS ACCESS Model** launch confirmed for 5 July 2026, marking Medicare's first purpose-built value-based payment pathway for technology-enabled chronic disease management. Participating organizations receive prospective monthly per-beneficiary payments, with adjustments based on predefined clinical and patient-reported outcomes over a 10-year period. This creates a structural reimbursement advantage for digital health companies demonstrating sustained health improvements.

The **CY2026 Physician Fee Schedule** finalizes expansions for sensor-based digital health technologies (sDHTs), adding reimbursement pathways for ADHD devices, gastrointestinal disorders, sleep disturbances, and fibromyalgia through new HCPCS billing codes. Documentation requirements remain stringent.

## Europe and DACH

**Germany's DiGA framework** clarified quarterly reporting timelines: manufacturers of permanently reimbursed apps must submit Q3/Q4 2026 data (usage duration, frequency, drop-off, repeat prescriptions) by 15 April 2027. This elevates real-world evidence requirements beyond initial clinical validation.

## 3. M&A and strategic consolidation

New deal announcements were limited during the review period, consistent with Q2 consolidation patterns. Notable progress includes:

- **Hims & Hers Eucalyptus acquisition** (up to \$1.15B) advancing through regulatory reviews across international markets.
- **Medtronic's \$550 million acquisition of Scientia Vascular** (neurovascular guidewires) closed early April, strengthening minimally invasive intervention capabilities.

**Broader context:** Strategic buyers continue platform-building, favoring integrated solutions over point DTx products.

## 4. Strategic takeaways

European grant funding (€63.2M available) represents low-risk validation capital for EHDS/MDR-aligned projects. The CMS ACCESS Model establishes the first Medicare "reimbursement moat" for chronic care technology. Quiet private markets underscore the premium on outcomes data and payer alignment.

## 5. YTD Q2 2026 perspective

Q1 private funding declined 35% year-over-year, offset by rising public grants. M&A increased 28%, favoring platform consolidators. Reimbursement frameworks (ACCESS, DiGA reporting) increasingly reward sustained clinical performance over initial adoption metrics.

## Sources

- European Commission Digital Strategy [[digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu)] • New Market Pitch funding updates [[newmarketpitch.com](https://newmarketpitch.com)] • Accretive Edge / CMS ACCESS Model [[accretiveedge.com](https://accretiveedge.com)] • Sidley Austin CY2026 PFS analysis [[sidley.com](https://sidley.com)] • Quickbird Medical DiGA reporting [[quickbirdmedical.com](https://quickbirdmedical.com)] • HLTH / MedCity News M&A tracking [[hlth.com](https://hlth.com)]

