

Health-eLife - Press Release 0905-2



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Validation of Remote Chronic Disease Management of Patients at Home Service

Health-eLife™, an EU E-Ten supported project, is exploring the implementation requirements of a new remote home care monitoring system designed to allow the management of patients suffering from chronic disease in their own homes. Across European member states, citizens suffering from chronic disease including Asthma, COPD, Blood Pressure, Diabetes and Heart Problems and their clinicians will receive help to simplify the complex management regimes currently deployed. Health-eLife is the culmination of European collaborative working that has resulted in the development of this leading edge managed home care monitoring system.

Health-eLife, will implement a programme to investigate the potential, requirements and practical implications of rolling out a remote care service, that is designed to give clinicians access to patients in their own homes, allowing them to manage patient care on a day-to-day basis without the restraints of requiring attendance at surgery or outpatient departments.



Health-eLife partners are specifying the needs of outpatient services in representative populations of the community and will conduct a randomised clinical trial in the UK to determine the effectiveness of the service compared with current practice. This will provide an evidence base which will be made available to policy makers, healthcare planners and providers.

Health-eLife will utilise an existing service framework called **doc@HOME** which consists of 'Health-Hub™' placed in the patients home. This connects through standard communication technology to a secure server that stores and processes information. This information is available to general practitioners, specialists and hospital clinicians at anytime and in any location overcoming limitations of time, location, geography and artificial inter-departmental

Press Release: Home based Chronic Disease Management provides barriers.

Healthcare professionals authorised to use the service are able to review patients progress, to send messages and observations to the patient without the need for taking up precious hospital time. Patients are also able to avoid the inconvenience of travel, loss of work time and the costs associated with non essential visits to hospital or surgery.

The system infrastructure is based on existing telecommunication networks, requires no knowledge of 'Hi Tech' computing and can be accessed by clinicians using existing practice computer systems and WEB interfaces. Information is available across agencies and between clinicians in different locations extending consultation opportunities without the need for special equipment.

The doc@HOME server draws on the outputs of former projects such as GEHR and EHCR providing patient information compliant to HL7 standards and is therefore compatible with current developments in Electronic Patient Record and existing primary and secondary care healthcare computing systems.

Patients are able to use the 'Health-Hub™' from any location where there is access to a telephone connection including the home, at work, on holiday and when travelling. The earlier work of the *doc@HOME*® approach to chronic disease management received the United Nations, World Summit Award (WSA) in the e-Health category for innovation and creativity in e-Content on a world stage.

Project partners are:

Docobo UK Ltd – United Kingdom

Curonia Research OU – Estonia

Turku Central University Hospital – Finland

George Eliot Hospital National Health Service Trust – United Kingdom

R&M Gruppen AB – Sweden

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