

LIVERDOC

The DOC service is a doctor-to-doctor interaction between a physician and a centre of expertise. The DOC service replaces unstructured exchange of patient information between doctors via e-mail or telephone, and offers physicians structured access to patient-tailored, up-to-date evidence-based and expert-approved information.

General practitioners or health care specialists face an enormous challenge. They have to keep up with the fast pace of evolution of scientific knowledge applicable to patient care. New knowledge is widely distributed across guidelines, books, medical journals and websites. This makes it very hard for an individual to synthesize this knowledge and subsequently apply it to individual patient care.

Through the e-TEN project, the LiverDoc consortium members are aiming to validate a new organizational model in health care, where the centre of expertise and the GP or 1st level specialist closely co-operate with one another to look after the patient.

The DOC service is about knowledge integration and knowledge distribution. At the centre of expertise, high impact knowledge and experience in diagnosis, prognosis, natural history, general management, treatment and monitoring from top quality resources is continuously integrated by medical researchers of LiverDoc into the DOC service. This knowledge is distributed to the physician in several ways: by Internet (by using a structured form) or by a connection integrated within the Electronic Health Record (EHR) used by the General Practitioner or healthcare specialist. The information supplied can be used by the physician as key information in the decision making process in the individual patient's health care management.

Trials will start in June 2006 across four countries of the European Union: Belgium, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. Approximately 1000 GPs and 250 specialists will evaluate the DOC service in these countries. The project will implement the DOC service applied to chronic liver diseases; the objective is to evaluate the possibility of sustainable implementation of the DOC service across the European Union.

The DOC service has been developed by the company LiverDoc, and is now being market validated by a trans European consortium of Electronic Health Record providers, IT specialists and departments of local governments. The LiverDoc ETEN consortium members are: Erasmus MC (NL), Cordys (NL) LiverDoc (NL), Omega Soft Medical (BE), Health Information Management SA (BE), Dedalus (IT), SEMG/SIMG (IT), Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia / ARSFVG (IT) and HEP-NET (DE).

LiverDoc service in your practice?

A free consultation service is in place up till the eTEN trials start. Please send us an e-mail at consultation@liverdoc.nl, providing us with patient-specific data on: age, sex, country of birth or ethnicity, severity of symptoms, alcohol intake, hepatotoxic medication, height, weight, hepatic stigmata, liver tests, virology; and if available hepatic imaging and liver biopsy. You will receive information tailored to your individual patient.

From May 2006 users of CliniDoc/MediDoc (Omegasoft, Belgium) or Millewin (Dedalus, Italy) can use the DOC service via their own Electronic Health Record. Others can register for the service at www.liverdoc.nl

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