

Legal workshop on Telemedicine

Brief overview on the Commission
Communication on Telemedicine

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Mr. X, 70 years Diagnosed with chronic heart failure

- Needs close monitoring of clinical symptoms
- To prevent/anticipate acute adverse episodes

Daily telemonitoring of weight and dyspnoea at home allows

- closer monitoring,
- More adapted care,
- Earlier warning in case of acute episode

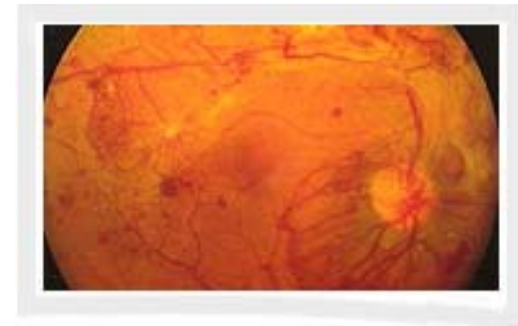


Mrs Y, 40 years Lives in a Northern Sweden Diabetes

- Diabetes, needs regular eye checks (retinography)

⇒ Teleophthalmology performed in the neighbouring town, eye scans sent to capital and interpreted by a specialist

- Better care,
- better territorial cohesion,
- better quality of life

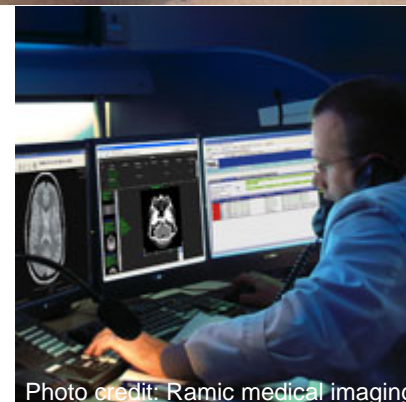


Hospital Z struggles with peaks in activity in radiology

- During peaks, radiologists are lacking for interpretation of radiographs

Teleradiology allows remote interpretation of radiographs and may thus

- Reduce delays
- Optimise resources
- Allows 24/7 service



What is telemedicine?

- Delivery of healthcare services for patients,
 - using communication technologies
 - in situations where the clinician(s) and/or the patient are not in the same location



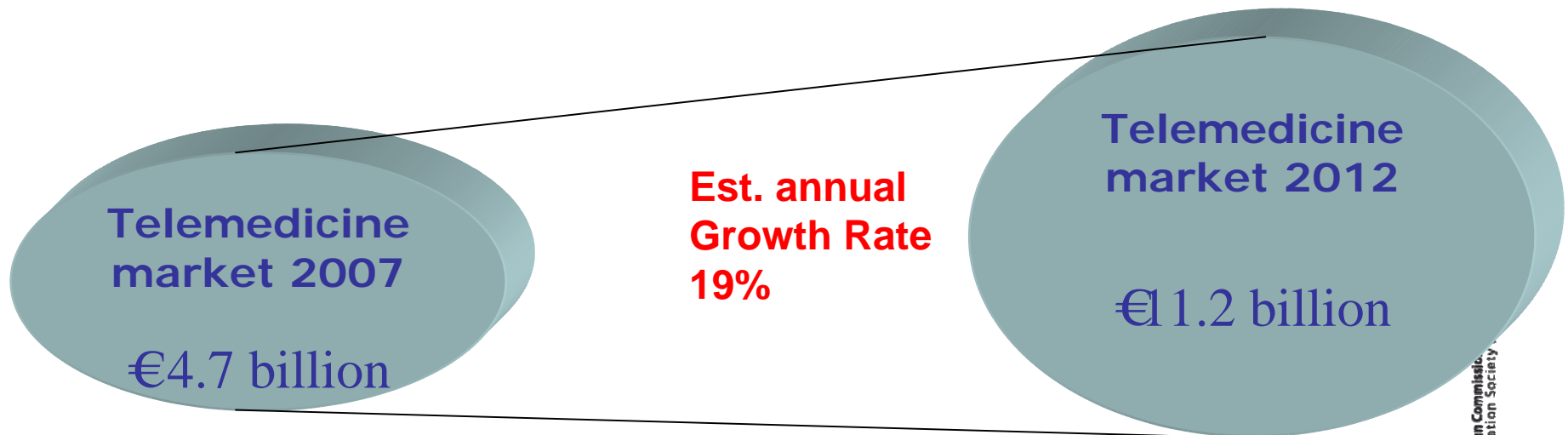
Telemedicine a tool for better prevention and care

- Improve quality of life of patients
- Better care: closer monitoring - earlier detection and diagnosis of diseases
- Increased accessibility to health services/professionals in remote, scarcely populated areas
- Empowered patients in managing their health conditions
- «Moving patients from hospital to home»
- Improving efficiency and timeliness of healthcare service provision



Telemedicine an expanding market

- TM market: high potential for growth and jobs in the EU (Lead Market Initiative)



Source: Telemedicine; Opportunities For Medical and Electronic Providers. BCC Research, 2007



EU policy context

- European e-Health Action Plan: Communication COM(2004) 356 “...Deploy eHealth services (telemedicine) by 2008”
- White Paper Together for health: A strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013 SEC(2007)1376- “Supporting Dynamic Health systems and New Technologies”
- Lead Market Initiative “create favourable framework conditions for market developments”



2. Objective of the Telemedicine Communication

- Enabling patients, society and the economy to take the maximum benefit from Telemedicine solutions
- Support Member States in integrating telemedicine services in their healthcare systems



3. The Process

- Lead Market Initiative EC Task Force 2007
- Consultations
 - Projects
 - Member State representatives
 - eHealth users stakeholders group/patients workshop
 - Users (professionals/doers)
 - Experts workshop
 - Industry workshop
 - Conferences eHealth, Med-e-Tel 2008
 - Bilateral meetings (on-site visits, insurers, EUCOMED)...



4. Telemedicine – To make it happen !

1. Building confidence and acceptance of telemedicine services
2. Bringing legal clarity
3. Solving technical issues and facilitating market development



Telemedicine - how? (1)

- Building confidences and acceptance on Telemedicine services
 - Measure and document impact of telemedicine, improve quality of studies
 - Support large scale telemedicine use, and innovative and sustainable procurement/funding schemes
 - Involve health professionals and patients on telemedicine
 - Identifying Member States needs
 - collection of good practice on deployment of telemedicine in Member States



Telemedicine - how? (2)

- Bringing legal clarity
 - Member States to share information on current /future national legislative frameworks relevant to telemedicine
 - + adapt national legal framework to allow telemedicine to be used
 - Analysis of the European legal framework applicable to telemedicine services



Telemedicine - how? (3)

- Facilitating market development
 - industry and international standardisation bodies to propose a plan to achieve interoperability in telemedicine
 - Commission in cooperation with Member States to issue a strategy on conformance testing of interoperability, functionality and security of telemonitoring systems

