

Home Care - Challenges for E-Health

eHealth for Regions Network Virtual Seminars

The eHealth for Regions network organises a seminar series on “Ageing population and increase of chronic diseases: Need for personalized healthcare”.

The seminars will take place by video conference in English language connecting participants from five countries. The seminar addresses professionals in home care, health management and in the IT-sector. Participation is free of charge.

2nd Virtual Seminar

“Nurse Gudrun”

Speaker

Katarina Sulasalmi
Project manager
Blekinge County Council, Sweden

“Home-ECG” economic aspects

Speaker

Pierre Johansen
Health economist
Lund University, Sweden

Date and Time

Tuesday, 20th of April 2010
10.30 to 12.00h (Central European Time)

Video Conference Facilities

Regionshuset, Region Nordjylland, Aalborg, Denmark
Seinäjoki Hospital, Finland
University of Applied Sciences Flensburg, Germany
Vilnius University Hospital Santariskiu Klinikos, Lithuania,
Regionhuset, Lund, Sweden

Abstract: Project Nurse Gudrun's full scale laboratory in Blekinge for IT in nursing & care

The overall aim with project is to show the combination between the accessibility problem within the health care system, and the possibilities that exist within new technologies. The aim of the project is to show how the existing care system with digital technology can get more effective in consultations, supervision, education, integration and collaboration.

The goal is to:

- build a production oriented platform within the health care system in Blekinge
- develop a research platform at the Blekinge institute of Technology, BTH. This platform will focus on innovations and researches linked to the lab. platform
- develop the health care platform for a dialogue between people and the health care providers
- increase the competence on and change attitudes to new technical solutions including IT among staff in health care and nursing care.

Using modern technology to make health care more accessible and efficient while preserving the quality of individual care, Nurse Gudrun's Full-Scale Lab in Blekinge - IT in Nursing & Care is an award-winning project which is successfully tackling these issues.

The County Council of Blekinge now has a full-scale lab, reflecting the existing production environment to test IT solutions in a real health care environment, but separate from the hospital's existing IT-network. Connected to this is a research lab at Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) where care-related research is done.

Instead of visiting a care centre, the patients access the health care facilities at home via The Care Channel [Vårdkanalen], where focus is on the health via TV or computer. This brings the patients, nurses and other care staff several advantages - used to pool information about patients' medical treatment options, video access simplifies access health care and improves its quality. While absent from the neonatal ward parents to prematurely born children can contact the ward via the computer. The image is believed to have great significance in directing the conversation while also creating security. Other expected advantages are that the family could recover at home reducing the number of days spent in hospital.

Abstract "Home-ECG" economic aspects:

Patients with chronic heart diseases are rather frequently seen at the nearby hospital's acute department. Many of these patients are old and are subject to home based health care in elderly homes or private homes. When these patients feel a change in the health state or symptoms from the heart, the nurse from the municipality is in most cases consulted for advice. This rather limited information for decision making causes many admissions to the nearby hospital's acute department for extra security reason which may be unnecessary.

In Hässleholm, Sweden, a system with tele-ECG was implemented in the municipality as a way to move the care and allocation of information away from the hospital to the nursing homes or private homes so that a better decision could be made whether or not to send the patient to the hospital.

In my bachelor thesis I investigated the economic implications of this new system. I found that this method had a potential to be cost saving for the Hospital and that further savings could be made if this system was implemented in more areas. Results from this thesis will be presented at the seminar

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eHealth for Regions is a network of 17 partners from 6 countries from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden aiming at facilitating transnational cooperation on health.