EC strategy

‘Telemedicine and innovative solutions for Chronic Disease Management’

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European Commission
Chronic Diseases – facts and trends

- Chronic diseases affect a large part of the population
  - **WHO data:** 860 million worldwide
  - **UK:** 17.5 million
  - **Germany:** 5 million cases of hypertension alone

- The incidence of chronic conditions will increase
  - **Demographic changes:**
    - Percentage of people over 60 yrs is on the rise
    - More people will require prolonged care
  - **UK Department of Health prediction:**
    - Incidence of chronic conditions in people over 65 yrs expected to double by 2030
Chronic Diseases – facts and trends

- Chronic diseases absorb the majority of healthcare resources
  - UK Department of Health:
    - 80% of GP consultations
    - 60% of bed days in hospitals
  - US: 78% of healthcare spending

- More resources for chronic diseases than for acute events
  - Around 70% of healthcare expenditure in developed countries
  - Introducing a shift in healthcare practice and focus

- Rising healthcare costs

- Staff shortages

Priority: High-quality & cost-effective management of chronic diseases
A Future Action Plan on Telemedicine

- **Telemedicine experiences exist nation and Europe wide**

- **Increasing deployment due to:**
  - Technical reasons: Telecommunication (broadband), personal health systems
  - Financial reasons: Moving patients from hospitals to home; solutions for chronic disease management
  - Other reasons:
    - Geographical
    - Patient empowerment
    - Involving family in care process
    - Elderly people
    - Skill shortage
Telemedicine / Telecare Solutions – the first approaches

- Telemedicine / home telecare solutions have been applied employing:
  - Sensing and monitoring equipment
    - ECG (event) recorders, blood glucose monitors, etc...
  - Communication networks
    - Via telephone lines
  - Services provided by call centres
    - 24 hours a day, all year round
    - Linked with networks of health professionals
    - Medical response and guidance

- Example: Telecardiology - Boario Home Care Project, IT
Personal Health Systems

Key facilitator for:

- Continuity of care (prevention → rehabilitation)
- Citizen-centred care
  - citizen empowerment to manage own health status
  - provision of personalised care
  - emphasis in preventative lifestyle
  - early diagnosis
  - management of chronic diseases
  - independent living

In the form of:

- Wearable systems
- Implantable systems
- Mobile / portable systems
- Point-of-Care systems for in-vitro diagnostics
Main obstacles to telemedicine deployment

Conference consultation: 52 responses; 17 medical doctors; 35 IT specialists; 40 with experience of cross-border care
Suggested solutions to ensure deployment

Of the 52 responses, 14 suggested to build evidence and run pilots as the highest scoring solution.
Roadmap
Action Plan on Telemedicine

- January 2008-March 2008: Broad consultation on the obstacles and solutions for full deployment of telemedicine

- March 2008: Industry focused conference on telemedicine deployment

- October 2008: A Communication from EC on ‘Telemedicine and innovative solutions for chronic disease management’
To find more on ICT for Health / eHealth?

• Policy site: [http://europa.eu.int/information_society/ehealth](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/ehealth)

• eHealth Newsletter (monthly issues):

• Research site:

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