

Telehealthcare: Indulgent or Indispensible

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1. About NI and the role of ICT

2. Remote Telemonitoring

3. Future Developments

Workshop Questions



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About Northern Ireland

- 1.7m (relatively stable) population
- Political Devolution
- Reformed, integrated health & social care system
- 2 main academic institutions active in ehealth
- Shares land border with another EU country



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Key Challenges Facing NI Health & Social Care System

- Increasing demand (demographics & morbidity)
- Quality, safety and accessibility
- Improving performance
- Involving people
- Resource constraints



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How Can ICT Help?

- Linking patients and service users with information and support networks
- Connecting patients and service users with clinicians and services
- Improved, more consistent monitoring of patient conditions
- Linking clinician to clinicians, providing remote access to specialist advice and supporting improved communication across clinical networks
- Improving the information base to support clinical decisions (Electronic Care Record)
- Improving clinical governance and quality assurance programmes
- Streamlining the care pathway across the primary, community and hospital care sectors
- Better information to support improved performance



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Delivering What People Want

1. Improved quality of life, health, well-being & independence
2. To be supported & enabled to self-care & to be involved in decisions about them
3. To have some choice & control over their care & support
4. To have services which are integrated, flexible, proactive & responsive
5. To have services that are high quality, efficient & sustainable



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The Role of the European Centre for Connected Health

- To improve the quality and responsiveness of services by fast tracking new products and technological innovations in health and social care
- System-wide solutions
- To promote the establishment of an ICT infrastructure fit for purpose for the 21st century
- Contribute to the advancement of the wider European e-Health agenda, and thereby
- Contribute to the establishment of NI as an outward focussed and competitive region in the global economy



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Initial NI Commitments

- Number of telehealth & telecare pilots
- Improving infrastructure
 - Much to do!
 - NI-wide digital picture archiving system
 - ECR pilot
- Establishment of ECCH
- Commenced development of 5-7 year connected health & care strategy
- Major investment in chronic disease management & procurement of a remote telemonitoring service for 5000 people (heart disease, COPD, diabetes)



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NI Vision for Remote Telemonitoring Service

- Flexible service
- Scale, end-to-end application
- Bringing information to professionals
- Enabling new ways to manage increasing burden of chronic disease
- Improving efficiency of care
- Improving quality of care



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The Service We Wish To Procure

- The supply, delivery, installation, commissioning, maintenance, decommissioning and associated making good of equipment;
- The provision of support and other associated services such as training;
- The collection, processing, analysis, transmission and/or otherwise making available of relevant data (including the triggering of alerts to designate point of contact)
- The development and implementation of relevant system interfaces;
- The provision of a triage service to include technical triage and optionally 1st line clinical triage; and
- Also:
 - Support evaluation
 - Compliant with current and emerging standards for interoperability
 - Future proofed



Anticipated Benefits

- Improving quality of care & quality of life for patients
- Informing patient-centred case management. Enabling reductions in inpatient admissions
- More & better targeted proactive support, enabling greater patient control
- Optimising use of staffing resources
- Improved quality assurance through improving the flow of accurate & timely information



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Critical Success Factors: Learning to Date

- Alignment with strategic and operational health and social care agenda
- Regional leadership and drive
- Securing local, clinical and corporate support and ownership
- Promotion of 'logic' and evidence base
- Appropriate resourcing
- Scale application takes time



The Future

- Immediate focus on Heart Failure, Diabetes, COPD
- Developing a Connected Health strategy to take this further
 - Stroke
 - Support of independent living
 - Early discharge
 - Supporting clinical networks
 - Mental health
 - Dementia
 - See www.eu-cch.org
- Electronic Care Record
- Links with academic and industry to promote innovation



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Workshop Questions

The Problem:

“Delivering (in view of changes in demography, morbidity and expectations) safe, accessible and quality services within future cost and human resource constraints.”

The Hypothesis is that ICT can help.

- Who owns the problem?
- Who owns what part of an ICT-facilitated solution?
- How position ICT solutions in the mainstream change agenda



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