Telemedicine: Strategic indications of the European Commission

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We had Concorde, we had high speed trains, the start of the Internet (World Wide Web)..but they are all now some way back, but the big jumps are going to be made in areas where so far there has been little innovation up until now, such as healthcare, education & the public sector. We can support an essential sector by saying we do and will need finance, for example and we will invest in it. But [Europe] needs to be more active in leading on research, in providing government support in finding markets.

How does the EC contribute to the large-scale deployment of telemedicine?

Digital Agenda for Europe

Action 75 – Achieving widespread telemedicine deployment

- ➢ **eHealth Action Plan**
- ➢ **eHealth Stakeholder Group**
- ➢ **projects on telemedicine**

Action 77 – Foster EU-wide standards, interoperability testing and certification of eHealth

- ➢ **eHealth Network**
- ➢ **European eHealth Interoperability Framework**
- ➢ **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**

eHealth Stakeholder Group

- Advisory Group to the European Commission with representatives of European eHealth umbrella organisations

- Report on telemedicine deployment
  - ➤ **includes observations and recommendations for telemedicine services as well as use-cases of Member States**

- Report on interoperability
  - ➤ **identifies obstacles and analyzes the European landscape and gives recommendations**

eHealth Network

- Set up under Directive 2011/24/EU
- Political body working towards enhanced eHealth interoperability
- Adopting guidelines
  - ➢ **guideline on patient summary**
  - ➢ **guideline on ePrescription**
- Involved in development of CEF and European eHealth Interoperability Framework

eHealth Interoperability Framework and CEF

- The eHealth Interoperability Framework aims to enable communication between EU eHealth systems by standards development, testing and certification

- As of 2015, CEF will fund projects to build and link up Member States' infrastructure needed to exchange electronic summary health records and ePrescriptions

European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA)

- Towards better sustainability and efficiency of healthcare systems through innovative ICT products and services in the field of active and healthy ageing

- Over 3,000 stakeholders from all Member States cooperating in Action Groups

- 32 Reference Sites that provide examples of best practices and give evidence of their impact

Examples of Reference Sites' impact:

Scotland National Telecare Development Programme

Based on data from 44,000 people receiving telecare...

- ➢ **93% of patients/elderly felt safer**
- ➢ **70% felt more independent**

Over a period of 6 years...

- ➢ **8,700 unplanned hospital admissions were avoided**
- ➢ **444,000 home check visits were saved**

Legal aspects - General

- No specific EU legislation on telemedicine
- At the intersection of various topics (health policy, ICT, data protection)
- Commission Staff Working Document on the applicability of the existing EU legal framework to telemedicine services
  - **Mapping existing EU legislation that applies to cross-border telemedicine**
  - **Providing legal clarity to actors**

Legal aspects - Reimbursement

- <u>National level:</u> Member States decide whether they reimburse telemedicine

- <u>Cross-border level:</u> Directive 2011/24/EU covers telemedicine services

  - **Patients receiving healthcare in another Member State have to be reimbursed up to the level of reimbursement applicable for the same treatment in their country**

Legal aspects - Licensing

- Health professionals only have to comply with the authorization and registration requirements of their Member State of establishment
- No need for a license in the patients' country
- Laid down in eCommerce Directive (2000/31/EC) and Directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare (2011/24/EU)

Projects – RenewingHealth

- Implementation of large-scale real-life test beds for the validation and evaluation of telemedicine services using a patient-centred approach and an assessment technology

- Involved 7,100 patients and demonstrated that remote monitoring brings a significant reduction in hospitalisations for congestive heart failure while cardiac visits were significantly reduced

- Good patient satisfaction: they felt safe, more actively involved, believed telemedicine improved their health and increased access to healthcare

Projects – United4Health

- Aims to exploit and further deploy innovative telemedicine services in 14 regions
- Patient centred approach, involving telemonitoring and treatment of chronic patients with diabetes, COPD or CVD diseases
- Will measure efficiency and cost effectiveness of the implemented solutions
  - ➢ **to give scientific validity to the results**
  - ➢ **promote adoption of remote patient monitoring and treatment on a large scale**

Projects – Momentum

- Development of a European Union-wide multi-stakeholder platform
- Analysis of 26 telemedicine cases
- Definition and analysis of 18 critical success factors for the deployment of telemedicine
- Delivery of an action plan for testing Momentum in a real life setting, to be done in the region of southern Norway

Thank you for your attention

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