TELE-CONSULTATIONS – TOOL TO DECREASE PROFESSIONAL ISOLATION AND TO INTEGRATE PRIMARY AND SPECIALIST CARE

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PrimCareIT - Counteracting brain drain and professional isolation of health professionals in remote primary health care through tele-consultation and tele-mentoring to strengthen social conditions in remote Baltic Sea Regions.

Partner countries: Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden

Objectives

- To assess the regional needs and strategic opportunities of tele-consultation and tele-mentoring to avoid professional isolation of health professionals in remote primary care
- To assess current barriers for large scale deployment of tele-consultations and tele-mentoring in the BSR such as technology acceptance, investment decisions, work flows, legal uncertainties
- To implement and validate transnationally developed tele-consultation solutions in remote primary care in pilot sites
- To implement tele-mentoring as innovative solution for career development of younger health professionals in remote primary care
- To prepare the durability and large scale implementation of the piloted solutions in the partner regions

Changes in Patient flow

Information about Pilot

- National Health Service has Agreements on tele-consultations in Cardiology, Dermatology and Endocrinology
- 8 GP from removed area involved
- The answers from specialists have to be received in 3 days
- Internet connection and images are used

First conclusions

- Cost savings - from the Health care system and Patient view point
- Increase of Patient satisfaction level
- Tele-consultations – tool to supporting continuing medical education
- GPs argue that ordinary referrals are less complex compare the request for tele-consultations
- PrimCareIT shows that tele-consultation provides a valuable technical and methodological support for communication between all health professionals, starting of integrated care in Latvia
- Algorithm for request of tele-consultations has to be developed, nurses have to be involved in the process
- Keep simple (user friendly)