Successes and Failures in Telehealth 2014

Telemedicine in South Africa

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Telemedicine in South Africa

South Africa

Area 1,204,037 km²
Population 52 million
Provinces 9
Rural 38%
< $1/day ppp 13.8%
Languages 11

Health

Govt health spend US$228 / capita
Public health system 82% population
Private health spend 60% total spend
Doctors 78 per 100,000
Public service doctors 27 per 100,000
Devolved to 9 Provincial DOHs

Telemedicine – The Start

1989 - CT scanners linked
1995 - National Health Information Systems Committee
1998 - National Telemedicine Task Team
1999 - National Telemedicine System
28 Public Hospitals – 6 Provinces

Telemedicine in South Africa

National Telemedicine System Phase 1
28 Hospitals and National DOH
Teleradiology
Tele-ultrasonography
Telepathology
Tele-ophthalmology
Failed

Countrywide, 56% of doctor posts are vacant and 46% of nursing jobs unfilled.
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Telemedicine – The Doldrums
2006 – Attempt to form SATMA
2008 – Draft legislation for telemedicine
2008 – Draft ethics for telemedicine
2010 – Draft eHealth Strategy
2010 – Draft Telemedicine Strategy
2011 - Ministerial Advisory Committee
2011 – SATMA formed

2008 Audit
86 sites – 32 Active (Sites not services)
55 ISDN based videoconference
18 teleradiology
4 teleconsultation
9 telespirometry/ECG
No data on use, other store & forward services or tele-education

National Health Normative Standards Framework for Interoperability in eHealth in South Africa
Version 2.0
March 2014
CSIR/ORDMS Number: 240075

A Telemedicine Strategy for South Africa
2012 - 2014
A Long and Healthy Life for All South Africans
Draft for Consultation
National Department of Health
October 2012

mHealth Strategy South Africa
Shall vs Should
Mandatory?

Telemedicine in SA – Public Sector

1999 National TM System – 28 sites
2008 NDOH – 86 sites, 32 active
2011 - 2,839 health facilities – 21 TM services

What is the current status?

2013 Audit
- Questionnaire – Provincial co-ordinators
- Only 4 of 9 Provinces responded
- Annual reports and plans reviewed
- Literature review of TM in South Africa
- Triangulation of data
- Very limited data on number of cases

Hospitals

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2013 Audit

Telemedicine sites
State Hospitals 131 / 433
State Clinics 79 / 3075
State Clinics to be installed 69
No data on informal referrals

2013 Audit – Services Reported
radiology pathology
dermatology psychiatry
ophthalmology orthopaedic surgery
audiology paediatrics
trauma tele-ecg
telespirometry occupational therapy
teleconsultation tele-education

mHealth Activity

http://www.mobileworldlive.com/mhealth-tracker

Gartner Hype Curve - mHealth
Visibility
Peak of Inflated Expectations
Plateau of Productivity
Slope of Enlightenment
Trough of Disillusionment
Technology trigger
Time
**Successes and Failures in Telehealth 2014**

**Where Are We?**

- Governance issues are being addressed
- Need buy-in at Provincial DOH level
- Need to: evaluate and monitor
  - report and publish
  - understand the private sector
- Spontaneous telemed services starting
- Develop an enabling environment
  - Raise Awareness

**Device and Service Agnostic Authentication**

**Quality of Care - Guidelines – Who?**

**Conclusions**

- Limited buy-in at Provincial level
- Poor reporting of activity
- No centralised data repository
- Few long term activities
- Private sector no data available
No prior scans available for comparison. In my experience such an appearance warrants urgent surgical intervention.