



Moving eHealth beyond the “e” – EHTEL celebrates its 10th Anniversary and looks ahead

Contents

- ▶ Moving eHealth beyond the “e”. EHTEL celebrates its 10th Anniversary and looks ahead 1
- ▶ A Change of Perception 1
- ▶ Three-plus Stages 1
- ▶ A community to Join, EHTEL, the eHealth focal point for Europe 2
- ▶ Revised Patient Charter 2
- ▶ eHealth Diary 2009..... 2

“A Change of Perception”



David Lloyd Williams, EHTEL Board of Directors *“There is much to do, but perhaps most of all what is required is to change our perception. eHealth is about enabling the delivery of quality care locally to people who need it, in an effective, and efficient way addressing the challenges that are taking place in society, utilising advances in medical science, and the capabilities of IT to support this”*

The past decade has been the witness of quite noticeable changes of health care by Health ICT. Nowadays, eHealth symbolises the modernisation of healthcare in support of quality of care, empowerment of patients, higher efficiency and also increased health professional job satisfaction. This has not happened by itself, rather a synergy of strategic plans, political commitments and technical developments was needed.

Founded in 1999, EHTEL, the European Health Telematics Association has been an integral part and often a moderator of these achievements. Today – based on its multi-stakeholder membership – EHTEL provides an important platform to reflect the current situation and to look ahead into the future.

Thus EHTEL also hosts the continuing expert debate, e.g. on the question “When will citizens in Europe benefit from eHealth services in their daily life”.

Since January 2009, EHTEL celebrates its 10th Anniversary. For this occasion, the Board of Directors of the association has reviewed progress made over the last two decades and the prognoses for the coming one. Their conclusions will be presented in various major Health and eHealth conferences all over Europe. Moreover, in March 2009 EHTEL will publish the report “Reflections on A Decade of eHealth – the second stage in Healthcare Transformation”.

- ◆ This report describes not only the “Decade for eHealth” (1999 - 2009) but broadens the perspective to cover early developments of ICT within healthcare, looks at today’s eHealth successes and failures, and then takes a view forward for the next decade looking at how eHealth can become real and integrated.

Three-plus stages of eHealth:

EHTEL 10th Anniversary Report

Review and prognosis of the upcoming EHTEL Briefing Paper traverse three stages of eHealth (i.e. the stages of Discovery, Acceptance and Deployment). EHTEL concludes that those will be eventually followed by a 4th stage when IT is an integral day-to-day part of the delivery, management and the benefits from care and the “e” prefix will consequently disappear from our language:

① The main achievement of the stage of discovery (1989-1999) was to enable an expert community across the European Union committed to work together, to exchange information and to initiate innovation.

② The stage of acceptance (1999-2009) began with the recognition that the design and implementation of new services were not going to happen by osmosis, just because of the enthusiasm of the eHealth community. The key progress included the increasing understanding of the importance and value of eHealth by most of the stakeholders. Some Regions and Countries have pioneered that decade with large scale deployments of some limited services, providing the eHealth community with an insight into the challenges for the next decade.

③ The stage of deployment (2009 - 2019) will be a challenge for healthcare. Many of the issues that have been a feature of this sector over the last twenty years will come home to roost. Cost will remain a primary concern as European Member States will have to cope with the ever rising cost of healthcare. The financial crisis will not make this easier but may offer opportunities of extra investments in eHealth e.g. by government programmes.

④ From 2019 on a stage of full integration of eHealth into healthcare is expected. This will be the time when “eHealth will move beyond the “e”, i.e. when digital healthcare will be simply “healthcare”.



A community to join: EHTEL, the eHealth Focal Point for Europe

Founded in 1999, EHTEL (the European Health Telematics Association) is a pan European multi-stakeholder forum providing a leadership and networking platform for European corporate, institutional and individual actors dedicated to the betterment of healthcare delivery through eHealth. The multitude of backgrounds and interests of these stakeholders enable EHTEL, as a neutral forum, to draw a more complete picture of the benefits and challenges of the deployment of ICT in the fields of health and social care, thereby also identifying topics requiring particular attention and further developments at European level.

We service our members with educational offerings on a number of issues through:

- ◆ Conferences and seminars on Interoperability, Sustainable Telemedicine, Chronic Disease Management, Patient Empowerment, Infrastructure, ePrescribing, and User Acceptance.
- ◆ Stakeholder groups - the Ministries of Health Group, the Group of Competence Centres and the one representing Patients, Citizens and Consumers.
- ◆ Task Forces on Interoperability of infrastructure and services, Telemedicine and Chronic Disease Management, Patient Safety and eMedication, Clinical Process Management, Innovation and Society.

Martin Denz, MD, EHTEL President: *"We must win patients and health professionals for our cause, actively incorporating new models of health and care delivery; we have to reorient care to become a citizen oriented service with the support of all stakeholders - clinical professionals, managers, ministries, insurance companies, communities, ICT, medical & pharmaceutical industries and its experts, and last but not least the people who need our care now or in the future".* If you want to know more about our vision and mission: → www.ehtel.org

New (revised) EHTEL Patient Charter

The recently revised EHTEL Patients Charter for eHealth Information Systems highlights the necessary ingredients to ensure full patient empowerment in relation to how eHealth affects their treatment and health promotion cycles. The Charter marks the culmination of four years' work within the EHTEL patients' group. It calls on national healthcare authorities across the European Union, particularly to adopt a patient centred approach to formalising and harmonising guidelines related to the use of eHealth systems and the processing of electronic health records.

Under the heading "Dignity and Respect", the Charter addresses the issue of the enormous potential of eHealth to improve the quality of life for older people, disabled people and patients affected by chronic diseases and other conditions.

Patients' need simple options to switch off eHealth technology to avoid obtrusiveness

Angelica Frithiof, Chair of the EHTEL Patient and Citizen Stakeholder Group: "We must recognise that despite the clear advantages, monitoring technologies, by their very nature are invasive since they are by definition installed in private residences be they rooms in a care institution or in a private home. Attention needs to be paid to the way in which such technology is installed, how patients, infirm citizens and carers are treated.[...] The Charter advocates for the ultimate in patient empowerment; the patient's right to be in control of the technology and to be able to switch off certain services impairing patient privacy when necessary."

Dignity and respect is one of eight areas in the Charter which provides a comprehensive panorama of issues faced by healthcare consumers across Europe today:

- ◆ Access To Appropriate Information
- ◆ Security and Safety of Information Systems
- ◆ Mastery of the Medical Record
- ◆ Privacy and Confidentiality
- ◆ Dignity and Respect
- ◆ Products From The Internet and World Wide Web
- ◆ Comments and Complaints
- ◆ Compensation

Download the new, revised version: → www.ehtel.org

EHTEL eHealth Diary 2009

February 19 - 20, Prague, Czech Republic
eHealth Conf. 2009: "eHealth for individuals, society, and the economy" cf. www.eu2009.cz

March 5 - 6, Hannover Fair, Germany
Telehealth 2009 within CeBIT (March 3 - 8)
cf. www.telehealth.de and www.cebit.de

April 1 - 3, Luxembourg
"Med-e-Tel 2009 : International eHealth, Telemedicine and Health ICT Forum for Education, Networking and Business
cf. www.medetel.lu/index.php

April 21 - 23, Berlin, Germany
"conHIT - Connecting Health IT"
cf. www.conhit.de

April 21 - 23, Gothenburg, Sweden
Vitalis eHealth Conference & Fair
cf. www.vitalis.nu

April 28 - 30, Harrogate, UK
"HC 2009 - "Shaping the Future"
cf. www.bcs.org

May 13-14, Brussels, Belgium
The 5th Annual World Health Care Congress - Europe 2009, cf. www.worldcongress.com

May 26-28, Paris, France
Hit 2009 - Health Information Technologies
cf. www.health-it.fr

June 15-16, Tromsø, Norway
TTeC09 - Telemedicine and eHealth Conf."
"Free Flow of Patient Information- Fiction or Fact?" cf. www.telemed.no/teec2008

June 29 - July 1, Berlin, Germany
Healthgrid 2009, cf. berlin2009.healthgrid.org

August 29 - September 02, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
MIE 2009: "Medical Informatics in United and Healthier Europe", cf. www.mie2009.org

September 30 - October 3, Gastein, Austria
European Health Forum Gastein 2009,
cf. www.ehfg.org

November 18-21, Düsseldorf, Germany,
MEDICA 2009, The world's largest medical fair. cf. www.medica.de

Autumn 2009: EHTEL Anniversary eHealth Symposium Visions of Person-Centric Health

On the occasion of the
10th Anniversary of EHTEL
cf. www.ehtel.org

Imprint

EHTEL - European Health Telematics Association
M.E.P.S., 50 rue d'Arlon, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Authors/Editors:

Marc Lange
Stephan H. Schug (Editor-in-Chief)

Contact:

Tel.: +32 (2) 230 9650 / Fax: +32 (2) 230 7773
email: management@ehtel.org