

Global University System in Palestine/Gaza Strip and West Bank And E-Healthcare/Telemedicine System

Prepared by: Dr. Fouad M. EL-Harazin
GIFPE and NRC
Gaza Strip

Rationalization

Telemedicine is the practice of medicine at a distance via telematic tools (i.e. internet, fax, digital imaging and more), without the presence of the patient for consultative purposes. The minimal equipment required for a consultee is a computer with Internet access, a microscope with a digital camera that has the capability to give an output with a resolution of 1024 X 768 or more (needed for the most accurate diagnosis).

Telemedicine is important mainly because it will give remote places or areas without a specialist in the field an answer to their patients' problems, within a matter of minutes, maximum a few hours. There is no time zone restraint to perform this kind of consultation therefore, this technology will help developing countries because they will be able to consult specialists around the world and by so doing, provide better care to their patients [\(1\)](#).

The main objective is to encourage interest in telemedicine among physicians and other health care experts, initiate an exchange of opinions, and experience about the application of telecommunication technology in medicine, so to reach a common perception of its role in the context of future development of the health care system [\(2\)](#).

If telemedicine is to realize its full potential, it must be properly evaluated and the results of any evaluations published, whether the results are positive or negative. Since telemedicine is about communication with colleagues and patients across large distances, it should be possible for those involved in it to do the same with their experiences [\(3\)](#).

In light of the fast development of technology, which accompany with advanced system for information management? This come up in the presence of the globally networked system (Internet) which make it easy for sustainable the communication among professionals. Especially for telemedicine, communication in health care system demands a standardized format of all information [\(4\)](#).

The Palestinian National Strategic Health Plan "PNSHP 1999-2003" has focused on development of advanced medical informatics applications, including electronic medical records and telemedicine besides the development of an integrated telecommunications infrastructure [\(5\)](#).

Most of the national strategies of the health plan, such as health data dictionary, clinical operation system have been achieved by year 2004 (to achieve the standardization and unification of data in

the Ministry of Health (MOH), while the telemedicine has not been established yet. However, we are planning to work on the Global University System proceeding further to developed telemedicine in Palestine.

The purpose for establishing the telemedicine within the Palestinian health management information system is to mitigate the burden of the costs for treatment abroad (which consumed approximately 13% of the MOH expenditures (6), as well as to give the opportunity for the medical professionals to make information exchange with professionals whether locally or internationally.

Methodology of Establishing the Telemedicine

- 1- Equipment
- 2- Human resources

Thank you

Dr. Fouad M. EL-Harazin, President

Gaza International Foundation for Peace on Earth (GIFPE)
Director of International Programs of The National Research Center (NRC)
Palestinian Authority-Gaza Strip
P.O. Box: 5340
Tel/Fax: 00 970 8 282 4157 (office, some countries use 972)
Mobile: 00 970 599 33 44 13 (some countries use 972)
Email: alagsau@hotmail.com
<http://www.gifpeace.org/Background.htm>

References

- (1) <http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/ophthalmology/Department/pathology/telemedicine.htm>. (dated of access: November 16, 2005).
 - (2) Vuckovic I, Dilberovic F, Kapur E, Voljevica A, Bilalovic N, Selak I. The principles of telemedicine in practice. Bosn J Basic Med Sci. 2003 Nov;3(4):54-60.
 - (3) Yellowlees PM. Successfully developing a telemedicine system. J Telemed Telecare. 2005;11(7):331-5.
 - (4) Kern J, Strnad M. [Informatics in the Croatian health care system]. Acta Med Croatica. 2005;59(3):161-8.
 - (5) Palestinian National Strategic Health Plan 1999-2003. PNSHP-MOH, PNA 1999.
 - (6) Ministry of Health. Health Status in Palestine: An Annual Report 2003. PHMIS- MOH, PNA 2004.
-
-