

Phd symposium - popular scientific text

Titel:

Research on a fundamental evaluation methodology, KPIs and guidelines for the integration of innovative ecare and ecare services

Challenges of the greying population: Impact of eCure and eCare services?

Care and Cure are two of today's most discussed topics worldwide. The demographic shift to a greying population is not only responsible for a growing demand for care; this demand also has to be fulfilled by a smaller active part of the population. Policymakers, care deliverers and researches invest huge amounts of money and time in order to answer following key question: *how to cope with the increasing demand for care and cure with fewer resources available?*

ICT supported care and cure services like telemonitoring, alarming services, telecare services, etc. which will play a crucial role in the near future to face the challenges of our greying population. These eHealth and eCare services will not only lead to a more cost effective and cost efficient care and cure system, also the quality of life of a care recipient will increase further.

Despite the promising results, our current healthcare system is not able to cope with this sort of ICT-supported care and cure services. There is a lack of regulations, reimbursements and pricing strategies are still unclear. For example: a general practitioner (GP) has to analyse the monitoring results of his patient with a particular heart disease on a daily base. But because there doesn't exist a regulated pricing scheme, the GP has to do it for free. So when the general practitioner should make use of this monitoring service, he would actually gain less money than in the current situation without telemonitoring.

Therefore I want to develop a framework to evaluate this kind of eCare and eCure services for all actors involved. Key questions I will try to answer in this phd. research are: 1) What is the quantitative and qualitative impact of such a service on the several actors? Is it only cost-efficient for a particular actor, or will the integration of such a service lead to an increase of eg. patient mobility? 2) What are the actual problems in the business models of the actors and what steps are needed to solve the current issues? 3) Can I define new key performance indicators (KPIs) that extend the current -clinical -way of evaluating these kind of services? Doing so, I will try to provide evidence that some eCare and eCure services are worth to be reimbursed while strong clinical evidence is still unclear.