

**Health Resources Digest**  
**June 2006**  
**EurasiaHealth Knowledge Network**  
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**Telemedicine Resources on the Internet**

“Telemedicine is the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve patients' health status. Closely associated with telemedicine is the term "telehealth," which is often used to encompass a broader definition of remote healthcare that does not always involve clinical services. Videoconferencing, transmission of still images, e-health including patient portals, remote monitoring of vital signs, continuing medical education and nursing call centers are all considered part of telemedicine and telehealth.”

*The American Telemedicine Association. Defining Telemedicine*

*URL: <http://www.atmeda.org/news/definition.html>*

*Associations/ Projects*

**eRisk Working Group for Healthcare: Guidelines for Online Communication**

The ERisk Working Group for Healthcare, a consortium of professional liability carriers, medical societies and state board representatives, was established to help physicians and other providers capitalize on the opportunity associated with online communication and related services, while minimizing the risk. These Guidelines are meant to provide information to health care providers related to online communication. They are reviewed and updated regularly. (September, 2005)

**URL: [http://www.medem.com/phy/phy\\_eriskguidelines.cfm](http://www.medem.com/phy/phy_eriskguidelines.cfm)**

**EUmed** (in English and Czech)

This site presents an overview of European Union (EU) medical informatics programs in the scope of the Framework Programme (FP) providing a coherent and truly European framework for supporting Research and Technological Development (RTD) as part of Community research policy and constituting a four-year strategic plan. The site includes resources on the following topics: telemedicine in EU countries; telemedicine projects of the EU 5th Framework Programme; telemedicine projects of the EU 6th Framework Programme; research institutions for telemedicine in the EU; telemedicine in new EU member states and candidate countries.

**URL: <http://www.eumed.cz>**

**Telemedicine in Russia** (in Russian)

A nonprofit foundation TELEMEDICINE provides organizational and financial support to a program of building and developing a system of telecare services in the Russian Federation. The Foundation and the Inter-Regional Telemedicine Center at the Training and Research Center for Space Medicine

give an opportunity to relevant organizations, health care providers and private practitioners to provide quality medical consultations to their patients regardless of their residence. The website has a collection of links to the Internet resources and publications on telemedicine issues.

**URL: <http://www.telemed.ru/>**

### **Telemedicine in Ukraine** (in Russian)

This web-site is part of the project Telemedicine in Traumatology (Donetsk Research Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics: Department of Information Technology and Telemedicine). The website posts full-text articles, conference materials, training manuals and other publications, links to the Internet resources, a catalogue of telemedicine centers and organizations in Ukraine, database Best Practice Models for Telemedicine and Telehealth, the Ukrainian Journal of Telemedicine and Medical Telematics, information about conferences, distant education and teleconsultation opportunities for professionals and patients.

**URL: <http://www.telemed.org.ua/>**

### **The American Telemedicine Association**

The American Telemedicine Association is the leading resource and advocate promoting access to medical care for consumers and health professionals via telecommunications technology in the US. Established in 1993 as a non-profit organization, membership in the Association is open to individuals, companies and other organizations with an interest in promoting the deployment of telemedicine throughout the world. The American Telemedicine Association's Board of Directors recently adopted a "Research Agenda" for telemedicine and telehealth. This agenda provides research guidance to further support and promote the long-term acceptance and use of telemedicine and telehealth. "Library" page provides links to reports and other information about telemedicine and telehealth

**URL: <http://www.atmeda.org/>**

### **The Office for the Advancement of Telehealth**

The US Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT) is committed to giving its grantees access to information and reducing barriers to telehealth. OAT's Policy Division posts articles to this web-site regularly on issues surrounding the telehealth field. Offers and administers grant information. Provides information on telehealth best practices, and includes publications and the links to other Internet resources.

**URL: <http://telehealth.hrsa.gov/>**

### *Telemedicine Centers*

#### **Telepatologie** (in Czech)

The site provides an interactive interface for static telepathology consultation. The Web site contains a list of the most recent cases (both consultation and demonstrative). A menu allows users to choose only the cases matching their field of interest. Users can also post new cases and upload supporting photographs.

**URL: <http://www.telepatologie.cz>**

### **Laboratories of Telemedicine at the National Research Center of Surgery at RAMS** (in Russian)

The web-site offers information for professionals (health care workers of different specialties), patients and everybody who has an interest in different aspects of telemedicine. It carries a list of telemedicine centers in Russia, a list of professional consultants, on-line surgeries, Web-cameras in the operating rooms, Web-presentations, publications, news and information about technical solutions in telemedicine.

**URL: <http://tele.med.ru/>**

*(Thanks to Irina Shumilova)*

### **Children's Telemedicine Center** (in Russian)

The Children's Telemedicine and New Information Technologies Center is a non-profit organization established in 1995. The Center provides teleconsultations on infants and children aged under 17 in the leading pediatric clinics of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Germany, develops and operates telemedicine systems in Russian regions and CIS, provides post-graduate distant training to health care workers and courses in emergency medicine at the pre-hospital stage for the public in cases of accidents and technological disasters.

**URL: <http://www.telemednet.ru/>**

### **Bakulev Center of Cardiovascular Surgery, RAMS** (in Russian)

A research and consultation telemedicine outlet has been operational at the Bakulev Center of Cardiovascular Surgery for several years. It provides remote consultations to patients in the Russian regions and outside Russia and gives distant teletraining to doctors of Moscow and regional clinics. Its series of lectures and seminars cover a broad range of topics and specialties (cardiology, cardiosurgery, clinical microbiology, pharmacology and drug therapy, rheumatology, and others).

**URL: <http://www.bakulev.ru/care/telecons.htm>**

**URL: <http://www.bakulev.ru/care/teleeducation.htm>**

*(Thanks to Irina Shumilova)*

### **Telemedicine Center of the Moscow Research Institute of Pediatrics and Children's Surgery** (in Russian)

Established in 1998 at the Moscow Research Institute of Pediatrics and Children's Surgery, the telemedicine center provides the following services: scheduled and emergency consultations (teleconsultations) to sick children who live in the regions, based on the Institute's digital (ISDN) and fiberoptic communications; lectures by leading researchers to students and practitioners; and seminars on new methods of patient diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.

**URL: <http://www.pedklin.ru/TeleMed/TeleMed.html>**

*(Thanks to Irina Shumilova)*

### **Djanelidze Research Institute of Emergency Medicine, Baltic Telemedicine Center** (in Russian)

The Center focuses on the following areas: teleconsultations, telecare meeting/case management team/symposium and distant learning. Consultations are provided by the Institute's leading professionals in all aspects of its work, such as concomitant injury, toxicology, thermal injury, pancreatology, vascular pathology, emergency cardiology, anesthesiology and reanimatology, endovideosurgery, traumatology, urology, gynecology, neurosurgery, neurology, radiology and others.

**URL: <http://www.emergency.spb.ru/online/bct.html>**

*(Thanks to Irina Shumilova)*

### **Non-profit partnership Computer Technologies in Medicine** (in Russian)

Non-profit partnership Computer Technologies in Medicine is the leading developer of telemedicine systems in Altai (Barnaul City). It has a regional Cyberspace Telemedicine Office, a telemedicine service center that delivers telemedicine services to health care providers in Altai krai and other regions. Teleconsultations are based on Regional Telemedicine System, software certified by the Russian Ministry of Health Care. This website focuses on issues related to the development of telemedicine in and outside Altai, and to the newest standards of medical data storage and sharing (reviews, description of formats, links). The “Telemedicine” section gives access to reviews on these topics, information about operational teleconsultation servers and addresses in Russia, and links to Russian and international websites.

**URL:** <http://www.ctmed.ru/>

(Thanks to Irina Shumilova)

### **Mobile Medicine – Medical Consultations** (in Russian)

Online consultations in pediatrics. The website developers warn that a specialist’s answer posted on the website cannot substitute consultations with a doctor and should not be treated as a recommendation to patients on how to diagnose and treat a disease.

**URL:** <http://www.mobilmed.ru/cons.php>

(Thanks to Irina Shumilova)

### *Journals/Articles*

#### **Ukrainian Journal of Telemedicine and Medical Telematics** (in Russian)

The Journal publishes original articles that cover the results of fundamental and applied research; academic reviews on the most important issues; lectures for students and practitioners; preannouncements; recommendations for practitioners; articles for discussion; information about congresses, conferences and symposia; critical reviews of articles and new publications.

**URL:** <http://www.telemed.org.ua/UJTMMT/jindex.html>

#### **Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare. Vol 10, Supplement 1, 2004. Successes and Failures in Telehealth - 4**

The whole Supplement is available for free in a pdf format. It covers experiences from different countries and regions of the world (Central and Eastern Europe, the United States, New Zealand, and developing countries), and accesses the results of different applications of telemedicine in a variety of health care settings and medical specialties.

**URL:**

<http://jtt.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/rsm/jtt/2004/0000010/a00101s1;jsessionid=1h9uvnn02650s.victoria>

#### **Email consultations in health care: 1--scope and effectiveness. *BMJ.* 2004 Aug 21;329(7463):435-8**

Summary of evidence about email consultations use for preventive health care, health education, and managing non-urgent conditions.

**URL:**

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&pubmedid=15321902>

**Email consultations in health care: 2--acceptability and safe application. *BMJ.* 2004 Aug 21; 329(7463):439-42.**

Summary of evidence about public and professional attitudes to email consultations, and discussion how to ensure their safe use.

**URL:**

**<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&pubmedid=15321903>**

**Study quality and evidence of benefit in recent assessments of telemedicine: Review. *J Telemed Telecare.* 2004;10(6):318-24.**

The authors “carried out a systematic review of recent telemedicine assessments to identify scientifically credible studies that included comparison with a non-telemedicine alternative and that reported administrative changes, patient outcomes or the results of an economic assessment. New evidence on the efficacy and effectiveness of telemedicine was given by studies on geriatric care, intensive care and some of those on home care. For a number of other applications, reports of clinical or economic benefits essentially confirmed previous findings.” They concluded that “although further useful clinical and economic outcomes data have been obtained for some telemedicine applications, good-quality studies are still scarce.”

**URL:**

**<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/rsm/jtt/2004/00000010/00000006/art00002?token=004e18d4646db90c726e2d2954496f642f466f256720297d7625737b502b5f7a4042762c2ba288>**

**Systematic review of cost effectiveness studies of telemedicine interventions. *BMJ.* 2002 Jun 15;324(7351):1434-7**

The authors of this systematic review concluded that by that time there was “no good evidence that telemedicine was a cost effective means of delivering health care”.

**URL:**

**<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&pubmedid=12065269>**

**Legal issues in teleradiology-distant thoughts. *Br J Radiol.* 2002 Mar;75(891):201-6**

“The legal implications of teleradiology/telemedicine are addressed, and literature, laws and professional guidelines from the UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand are reviewed, focusing on the American licensure laws, professional relationships with patients with regards to liability, responsibility, accountability and duty of care issues, as well as issues of missed diagnosis, misdiagnosis, security and confidentiality.”

**URL: <http://bjr.birjournals.org/cgi/content/full/75/891/201>**

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**Related AIHA links:**

**LRC Project Toolkit: Training Materials. Tech Topic: Teleconsultation (2004)**

**URL: <http://lrc.aiha.com/English/Training/teleconsult-eng.pdf>**

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**Health Resources Digest Forthcoming Topics**

[Provisional]

Critical Appraisal Tools; Evidence-based Public Health; Electronic Patient Records; Copyright Issues on the Internet; Medical Calculators

If you have a suggestion for a Digest topic, or would like to contribute information about Internet resources, then please contact [ibra@zadar.net](mailto:ibra@zadar.net)

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