

Achieving Effective Integrated E-Care Beyond the Silos

Edited book – Call for Contributions

Edited by: Ingo Meyer, Sonja Müller & Lutz Kubitschke; empirica

Contact: Sonja Müller, Ingo Meyer, Lutz Kubitschke, c/o empirica, sonja.mueller@empirica.com, ingo.meyer@empirica.com, lutz.kubitschke@empirica.com

Background to the book

In recent scientific and policy debates at global and national level it has been frequently highlighted that the demographic change, rising incidence of chronic disease and unmet needs for more personalised care are trends demanding a new, integrated approach to health and social care. In this context, it has been stated that professionals must work across care sectors as a team with common goals and resources to deliver a coordinated response to each citizen's care requirements. A recent OECD report also highlights that interface problems in the coordination of services of acute, rehabilitative and social care can lead both to unsatisfactory outcomes for patients and can also result in inefficient use of resources across health and social care systems taken together (Huber, M., Long-term care for older people: The future of Social Services of General Interest in the European Union, in: The future of Social Services of General Interest, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research 2007).

Advanced ICTs are a major opportunity to realise care integration across social care and healthcare and involving third-sector organisations, superseding today's chain of disjoint responses to discrete threats to health. With the issue still being very much at a concept stage, much remains to be learned how it can be made a reality, how framework conditions have to shift to accommodate new necessities and how service and business models have to be build to get buy-in from all stakeholders involved. At the same time, first real-life examples of integrated eCare are emerging across Europe and can provide useful lessons.

We thus think that the time has come to take stock of what already exists in the area of integrated eCare and give people active in the field the opportunity to publish their knowledge and experiences in a dedicated book, thus allowing others to learn. The book will to our knowledge be the first collection available on the topic of integrated eCare, and we would be more than happy to include your contribution.

Topics and types of contributions

The overall thematic framework for the book is set by what is described above. Within this, we are open for a wide range of different topics, fed from various sources. Here, too, the overall aim should be borne in mind: to produce a collection of knowledge that provides relevant insights to practitioners, researchers and decision makers engaging in integrated eCare.

Potential topics

- Requirements and framework conditions: what it takes to make integrated eCare services work
- Case studies: how integrated eCare services work
- Business models: how to make integrated eCare a viable reality
- Governance: how decision makers can enable integrated eCare
- Impacts: costs and benefits of integrated eCare to the individual and to society
- Evaluation methods: how to measure impacts of integrated eCare

Potential sources

- Experiences from mainstream operational services
- RTD or deployment projects
- Primary research
- Meta studies
- Policy analysis
- Conferences, workshops or other events

Types of contributions

Book chapters, tentatively 15-25 pages.

Time table

- December 31, 2012 Proposal submission deadline
- January 31, 2013 Notification of acceptance
- April 30, 2013 Full chapter submission
- May 31, 2013 Peer review
- June 30, 2013 Final chapter submission
- August 15, 2013 Final editing

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