A horizon scanning system for identifying new telehealth solutions

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Introduction

- Increasing demands on healthcare services
- Need to reform the delivery of healthcare
  - Greater role for ICT
- Rapid increase in telehealth technologies market
Identifying innovation

• Horizon scanning (Early warning systems)

• Aim:
  – Develop a horizon scanning tool to identify recent innovation in telehealth technologies for people with long term conditions (LTCs)

• CLAHRC-SY
  – Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care, South Yorkshire
• Adopting EuroScan protocols for identifying and assessing emerging health technologies

• Systematic process of searching, filtering and prioritising telehealth for LTCs
Pilot studies

1. To identify suitable information sources
   - RSS aggregator (*netvibes*)

2. Stepwise approach: initial basic search criteria to identify relevant technologies
   - Search of 1 academic journal (*Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare*) and 1 news site (*euhealthnews.eu*)

3. Targeted search and manual filtration: To identify recent innovations relevant for a specific long-term condition (COPD)
   - Search of *Web of Knowledge (WoK) & IEEEXplore*
   - Refine and search criteria
Results: *information sources*

- RSS aggregator
- Videos
- Journals
- News sites
- Government sites
- Ongoing assessment by stakeholders
- Serves as an online resource for project partners
Results: *basic search*

- ‘Technology’ search terms
- Journal of Telemedicine & Telehealth (JTT), ehealthnews.eu
- 2009-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Hits</th>
<th>New products</th>
<th>Long Term Care application</th>
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<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td>Stroke: 3, Diabetes: 4, Dementia: 1, Other/Not spec.: 8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Results: Targeted search & filter

- Search terms: ‘Technology’ + (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease OR COPD)
- 2008-2010
Discussion

• Initial results show potential of THSS
• Search strategies, mechanisms and limitations
• Automation of THSS
• Identifying the innovation/development stage of identified products
• Prioritisation stage: Issues of stakeholder buy-in and implications of different priorities
Conclusion

• First steps to the development of a THSS

• Future success governed by:
  – Potential research and evaluation trials
  – Appropriate deployment into healthcare settings
  – Knowledge Transfer: informing and increasing awareness for stakeholders