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**November 8, 2011**

### **VA seeks vendors for National Mobile Device Management Solution**

The US Department of Veterans Affairs announced it was seeking Requests for Information to search for qualified vendors that could meet the department's need for a National Mobile Device Management Solution. The vendor will provide a system initially able to support 10,000 mobile devices, but scalable to support up to 100,000 mobile devices in additional increments of ten thousand. With this contract, the VA said, it will buy up to 100,000 securely connected tablet devices, iOS, Android and Windows. As part of the program, device users will connect to a VA enterprise application store for downloading of applications. The devices will offer remote management and offer reporting capabilities to VA leadership. The procurement information also indicates the contractor will need to provide three days of training for 200 administrators at 10 VA locations.

[Read the bid announcement](#)

### **CMS adds smoking, tobacco cessation counseling to Medicare telehealth coverage**

Starting Jan. 1, 2012, doctors will begin to be reimbursed by Medicare for smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling, according to a final rule issued last week by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The agency released its final rule, with a comment period, for Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule, Five-Year Review of Work Relative Value Units, Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule: Signature on Requisition, and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2012. Also effective Jan. 1, CMS will change its code descriptors for the inpatient telehealth consultation G-codes to include emergency department telehealth consultations: "Changing the code descriptors will ensure that telehealth consultations can be reported appropriately when furnished to emergency department patients. The telehealth originating site facility fee will increase to \$24.24 on Jan. 1. However, CMS also estimated that physicians can expect an across-the-board Medicare payment reduction of 27.4%—better than the 29.5% cut the Obama Administration once projected, but still significant enough that Congress may again seek a delay.

[Read the final rule \(PDF download\)](#)

### **Pakistan provides Rs 59 million grant toward pilot telemedicine networks**

Pakistan's Universal Service Fund awarded Oratier Technologies (Lahore, Pakistan) a Rs 59 million (about \$684,000) contract toward the nation's pilot project to establish telemedicine networks around Rawalpindi, Karachi, and Multan, using existing broadband networks [[News Alert, Sept. 27](#)]. As part of the pilot project, Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Center-Karachi, Nishtar Medical College-Multan, and Holy Family Hospital-Rawalpindi will connect with 12 remote sites, outfitted with digital stethoscopes, dermoscopes, ultrasound, and other telemedicine equipment to facilitate consults with the specialists. Expansion to other cities is

Advertisement

An advertisement for touch-screen interpreting for patients. It features a photograph of a woman in a blue uniform sitting at a computer workstation. A red banner with the word "NEW" is overlaid on the top right of the photo. Below the photo is a green box with white text that reads "Touch-screen interpreting for patients" and "Find out more www.lifelinks.net". At the bottom of the advertisement is the LIFE LINKS logo.

NEW

Touch-screen  
interpreting  
for patients

Find out more  
[www.lifelinks.net](http://www.lifelinks.net)

The LIFE LINKS logo, consisting of a stylized butterfly icon and the text "LIFE LINKS".

planned, as are additional telecom efforts.

[Learn more about Pakistan's Universal Service Fund](#)

### **MedAfrica product from Shimba Technologies introduced**

Shimba Technologies (Nairobi, Kenya) has launched MedAfrica, a suite of applications, such as symptom checkers, drug data, first-aid information, doctor and hospital directories, and relevant alert services, designed to provide affordable healthcare information available on a mobile device in Kenya. The government, academia, and other health practitioners are expected to contribute content. Nokia is supporting the service, which has launched a beta version of a home page.

[Scroll down to view the home page of MedAfrica](#)

### **Australian youth less interested in a webcam consult about sexual health issues**

An Australian study found more young people age 16–24 years—85%—would rather consult a physician in person for a sexual health issue, while 63% would prefer to do so by telephone, and only 29% would use a webcam consultation. The respondents expressed concern about the privacy of text responses and security associated with possible recordings of the consultations, and that it could be retrievable online. Those more willing to have a webcam consult were men, respondents with same-sex partners, and young people reporting three or more partners in the previous year. Even though only 29% indicated they would be willing to have a webcam consult, the authors thought such a service may benefit young people and that acceptability could increase if medical clinics addressed privacy concerns. The results were published in *BMC Infectious Diseases*.

[Read the study \(PDF download\)](#)

Contact: Cameryn C. Garrett, Centre for Women's Health, Gender and Society, Melbourne School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. *Email:* cameryng[at]gmail.com

### **Diversinet received patent for secure mobile storage**

The US Patent office awarded Diversinet (Toronto, ON) a patent for an encryption method to protect sensitive data stored on a smartphone or tablet. The technology prevents unauthorized access to health information through the use of characteristics specific to the mobile device's unique identity, such as the serial number, to create a passkey. Diversinet's MobiSecure® healthcare products include the newly patented technology and will allow organizations to deploy HIPAA-compliant mHealth applications.

[Read more about MobiSecure products](#)

### **European Commission offering funding for abstracts from developing countries**

The Directorate-General Information Society and Media of the European Commission (Brussels, Belgium) will award grants to three abstract authors from developing countries submitted to the Med-e-Tel 2012 conference, set for April 18–20, 2012 in Kirchberg, Luxembourg. The organization aims to promote research and implementation of eHealth initiatives and participation in the conference by people in the developing world with funding for expenses associated with attending the conference and presenting their projects. Abstracts must be submitted by Dec. 16, 2011. The Med-e-Tel Scientific Committee will evaluate submissions and notify recipients of the grants by Jan. 13, 2012.

[Read the details about the funding opportunity](#)

### **Wales to award £350,000 for pilot telestroke services**

The Welsh Government will provide £350,000 (about \$561,000) to seven Local Health Boards toward pilot telestroke services. With teleconferencing, patients in remote areas will be taken to the nearest hospital with a CT scanner and stroke unit, and if no specialty consultant is on site, they will receive a consult from a physician, who can review in real-time brain imaging and discuss care with the local team.

[Read more about the pilot program](#)

### **Report describes physicians' use of digital channels**

Manhattan Research's Digital MedTech Physician™ is now available from Millennium Research

Group (Toronto, Canada). The report outlines how physicians use digital channels to learn about medical devices. The study found that physicians are online during the workday, with 80% indicating they use the Internet during their workday for professional purposes, including accessing from a mobile device. The responding physicians reported using online videos to learn about medical devices, and they indicated a willingness to use online training about medical devices. Half of the doctors said they would participate in online promotional programs for medical devices even if they wouldn't see a representative of the company in person.

[Read about and order the report](#)

### **Chinese study finds diabetic retinopathy telehealth system reliable for screening**

A Chinese telehealth system for diabetic retinopathy proved reliable for screening patients during a study, according to a study published in *BMC Health Services Research*. A research team studied implementation of the Beixinjing Community Diabetic Retinopathy Telehealth system, which obtained digital retinographs from 471 diabetic residents and securely transmitted and stored the images, which were retrievable along with the participants' data and medical reports. Researchers found a high consistency between the telehealth screening and the ophthalmologists' observations for macular edema, moderate or severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy grade, and other grades.

[Read the study](#)

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### **Boston Scientific introduces iPad app for doctors on cardiovascular and peripheral disease**

The CardioTeach™ iPad® app from Boston Scientific (Natick, MA) provides a free educational resource for healthcare professionals to use when educating patients and caregivers about therapy options related to cardiovascular and peripheral disease, such as arrhythmias or heart failure. CardioTeach offers an overview of normal heart function and common conditions with easy-to-understand materials and graphics. Physicians can customize the materials and overlay pacemakers or other items on the graphics. They also can email the information to patients.

[Watch a video demonstration of CardioTeach](#)

### **eHealth Global Technologies offers beta patient referral program**

An upgraded eHealth Access Referral Management System, from eHealth Global Technologies (Rochester, NY), now in beta and for general release in early 2012, will help electronically manage patient referrals and patient intake processes, and will integrate with hospital scheduling systems and an electronic health record. It will send a confirmation to the referring physician. Reports allow management to see who is referring patients and the value of each referral.

[Read more about the referral program and request a demo or white paper](#)

## **Movers & SHAKERS**

**Michael Woodcock** has joined AcuteCare Telemedicine (Atlanta, GA) as a sales executive...Archbishop Emeritus **Desmond Tutu** (Cape Town, South Africa) will chair the International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth's Global eHealth Ambassadors Program, funded with money from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Gulbenkian Foundation. Other eHealth ambassadors include Professor **Fernando Henrique Cardoso**, former president of Brazil; **Emilio Rui Vilar**, chairman of the Gulbenkian Foundation (Lisbon, Portugal); **Lord Nigel Crisp**, former CEO of the UK's National Health Service; musician **Peter Gabriel** (Wiltshire, UK), and **Strive Masiyiwa**, founder and CEO of Econet Wireless Group (Harare, Zimbabwe)...**Moretlo Molefi**, owner of Telemedicine Africa (Gauteng, South Africa),

won the annual Technology for Women in Business award hosted by South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry...**Tejal Gandhi**, chief quality and patient safety officer for the not-for-profit, integrated health care system Partners HealthCare System (Boston, MA), has been named program director for the Harvard School of Public Health's executive education program for IT in health care...Awarepoint (San Diego, CA, and Charlotte, NC) has named**Merrie Wallace** as executive VP, **Chris Cosgrove** as senior VP of sales for the eastern US, **Carla Gallego** as VP of national account sales for the western U.S., and **Greg Arthur** as VP of client management. Ms. Wallace and Mr. Cosgrove were former executives at McKesson (San Francisco, CA), with Mr. Cosgrove a former leader of McKesson's national clinical sales department. Ms. Gallego was formerly of Cisco Systems, while Mr. Arthur is former director of Microsoft's global and enterprise customer team...HealthTech Holdings (Nashville, TN) named**Alan MacLamrock** as CTO and **Geoff Roten** as CIO. Mr. MacLamrock was formerly executive VP at CDC Software (Atlanta, GA) while Mr. Roten is a former executive managing partner of NorthStar Technology Consulting (Austell, GA).

## *Upcoming* **EVENTS**

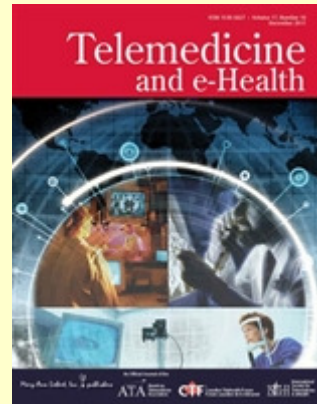
- **International Telecare and Telehealth Conference 2011**  
*November 14–16—Hilton London Metropole Hotel, London, UK*  
[More Info](#)
- **2011 mHealth Summit**  
*December 5–7, 2011—The Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, MD*  
[More Info](#)
- **Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth 2012 Annual Spring Conference**  
*March 14–16, 2012—The Ritz-Carlton, Reynolds Plantation Lake, Oconee, GA*  
[More Info](#)
- **Med-e-Tel**  
*April 18–20, 2012—Luxexpo Exhibition and Congress Center, Kirchberg, Luxembourg*  
[More Info](#)
- **ATA 2012: 17th Annual International Meeting & Expo**  
*April 29-May 1, 2012—San Jose McEnergy Convention Center, San Jose, CA*  
[More Info](#)
- **Global Connected Care Conference and 3rd MediTour Expo**  
*May 6–8, 2012—Flamingo Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV*  
[More Info](#)

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