

Improving Patient Safety: Which ICT Contribution? *ICT in support of a holistic strategy to improve the quality of care*

Education session ES 41 during the *World of Health IT* Conference

http://www.worldofhealthit.org/education/edu_EdS.asp

Thursday, 12 October 2006, 15:00 - 16:15

Geneva Palexpo, Room: SALEVE

The need to manage health risks both within and outside clinical settings and to improve patient safety along the full continuum of care has become a priority issue on the global health policy agenda. Evidence shows that eHealth systems and applications can improve quality of care, reduce errors and deliver significant cost savings. EU Member States pay considerable attention to patient safety and risk management in healthcare, and the benefits provided by information and communication technologies (ICT).

This session is offered by the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), the European Health Management Association (EHMA), and the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE) with the support of the European *eHealth for Safety* study.

After a welcome note by *Dr. Markku Äärimala* and a short introduction by *Céline Van Doosselaere*, *Dr. Veli Stroetmann* presents the state of play of ICT in support of patient safety with foci on applications like decision support systems (DSS) and computerised physician order entry (CPOE); good practice examples, success and failure factors in ICT implementation, followed by brief reflection on research needs and challenges.

Dr. Jean-Pierre Thierry will take a systemic approach considering public health needs: from hospital to public health information systems. Special attention will be given to the need of developing patient safety indicators and the opportunities from ICT enabled syndromic surveillance medicine.

There will be 5 min. for questions and answers after each presentation, to be followed by a 20 min round table discussion with representatives of CPME, HOPE, EHMA, the speakers, and the audience. *Dr. Markku Äärimala* will conclude the session.

The round table may address some of the following issues:

- 1) IT as an enabler and a key component of a safer healthcare environment (but it is only a component, and management and cultural issues deserve the same attention), moreover, a comprehensive strategy is needed.
- 2) ICT induces a major change in professional culture. Doctors may feel the risk of loss of professional empowerment. This issue should be addressed appropriately and evaluated regularly with defined criteria.
- 3) Medical software should not be a risky solution: its development, deployment and diffusion should benefit from a certification/accreditation process.
- 4) Interoperability issues should be addressed properly, e.g., patient and HCP identification, authentication, semantics.
- 5) Research and Development must contribute to address these and other issues.

Draft Agenda

Session Chair and Moderator: Dr. Markku Äärimaa

1	15:00-15:05	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Dr. Markku Äärimaa, Former President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), Member of the national Social and Health Affairs Committee, Finland</p>
2	15:05-15:10	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Céline Van Doosselaere, Head of Brussels Office / EU Affairs, EHMA (European Health Management Association), Belgium</p>
3	15:10-15:30	<p>Making healthcare safer: ICT in support of patient safety - state of play, and research needs and opportunities</p> <p>Veli Stroetmann, <i>eHealth for Safety</i> study, <i>empirica</i> Communication and Technology Research, Germany</p>
4	15:30-15:50	<p>Systemic approach and public health needs: from hospital to public health information systems</p> <p>Jean-Pierre Thierry, <i>eHealth for Safety</i> study, National Agency for Hospital Investments, Regional Hospital Authorities of Picardie and Nord Pas de Calais, France</p>
5	15:50-16:10	<p>Discussion</p>
6	16:10-16:15	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Dr. Markku Äärimaa</p>