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Ethical and legal challenges for health telematics in a global world: Telehealth and the technological imperative

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Abstract

Telehealth is one of the more recent applications of ICT to health care. It promises to be both cost-effective and efficient. However, there lies a danger that focusing mainly on pragmatic considerations will ignore fundamental ethical issues with legal implications that could undermine its success. Implicated here are, among others, changes in the nature of the health care professional patient relationship and informed consent, etc. The position of health informatics professionals as well as hard- and software providers is also affected. A further complicating factor is outsourcing. This paper identifies relevant issues and outlines some of their implications.



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Keywords

Ethics; Telehealth; Consent; Informatics; Liability; Outsourcing; Privacy

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