

### TELEMEDICINE IN UZBEKISTAN

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## **Annotation**

Telemedicine has enormous potential to address a range of challenges faced by both developed and developing countries. It uses information and communication technologies to increase access to health services and to overcome geographic barriers. This is especially true for rural areas, where residents constantly suffer from a lack of access to health care.

**Keywords**: telemedicine, telemedicine service, information and communication technologies, Uzbekistan.

#### Relevance

The term "telemedicine" was introduced in 1970 and means "treatment at a distance". [4] Telemedicine is the provision of health care services by health care workers, in an environment where distance is a critical factor, using information and communication technologies for the diagnosis, treatment, prevention of diseases and the continuous education of health workers to improve the health of the population. [1, 6, 11] The goal of telemedicine is to provide qualified and specialized medical care to all population groups, regardless of their geographical location.

The most important state task is to disseminate high-quality medical knowledge and skills in rural areas.

The development and implementation of telemedicine is a promising direction in providing medical care to the population of Uzbekistan in primary health care in rural areas, at the level of rural medical centers and central district hospitals, regional diagnostic centers, as well as in the emergency medical care system.

In Uzbekistan, part of the medical staff working in rural areas lacks educational medical technologies. Territorial features and high population density, lack of qualified medical personnel at the primary level, lack of medical technologies necessitate the creation of a telemedicine service in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Thanks to it, treatment costs are significantly reduced, the quality of diagnosis and treatment is improved. This is especially important for patients with chronic diseases and the elderly.

Telemedicine information systems are information systems that provide medical care using telemedicine technologies. [3, 8, 11] Telemedicine technologies ensure the realization of the human right to affordable and highly qualified medical advisory assistance, regardless of place of residence and work activity.

Telemedicine technologies have been known for a relatively long time, but their implementation is still at its peak. In our country, they are increasingly being used. Telemedicine centers are appearing, the number of specialists involved in organizing telemedicine services is growing. Telemedicine is firmly entering the practice of healthcare.

Telemedicine is characterized by 3 features:

- 1. Its purpose is to provide medical support and improve the health of the population.
- 2. She overcomes geographical barriers.
- 3. It includes the use of various types of information and communication technologies. According to foreign experts, the telemedicine platform will reduce the number of visits to doctors by at least 30-40%. [1, 2, 9] The existing platform has special tools with which medical workers can remotely make an appointment, issue an electronic prescription or open an electronic sick leave, provide remote monitoring of patients who are on outpatient treatment, have chronic diseases or have been discharged from the hospital the day before.

The most common barriers to the development of telemedicine services are resource issues and the fact that telemedicine costs are too high. In developed countries, obstacles to the development of telemedicine are legal issues related to the privacy and confidentiality of patients. [5, 7]

From the foregoing, it follows that the development of telemedicine, given the priority development of the healthcare system and information and communication technologies in Uzbekistan, should be a priority, as well as have state support. At



present, a large number of necessary works have been carried out in Uzbekistan to create e-health and a national telemedicine system, which are based on the legislation of the Republic and existing world experience.

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