

THE PROCESS TOWARDS NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF TELEMEDICINE IN WOUND CARE - THE CASE OF DENMARK

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During the past few years Europe has experienced economic crisis and an increase in the elderly population. Political decision makers have paved the way for technological solutions in order to reduce the costs of the health system. One way to achieve cost savings is the use of telemedical solutions for individuals suffering from chronic diseases. In Denmark there is a firm belief that telemedicine constitutes a valuable solution for cost savings in an ever increasing elderly population. Focus has been directed among others on the treatment of a diversity of ulcers leading to a large setup in the Region of Southern Denmark involving municipalities, nurses, doctors of different specialties and patients themselves. The purpose of this presentation is to share some of the knowledge gained during the establishing process and advocate for specific setups to be used in this respect to achieve a similar way of treatment on a more global level. A number of pitfalls will be addressed and the principles needed to secure ownership in all professional areas are stressed. I will also discuss the problem of having many partners in the implementation process all with individual demands and expectations.