Comparison of self-administered survey questionnaire responses collected using mobile apps versus other methods.

*Marcano Belisario JS* *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2015;(7):MR000042

Self-administered survey questionnaires are an important data collection tool in clinical practice, public health research and epidemiology. However, variation in the mode of delivering a survey questionnaire could affect the quality of the responses collected. This review finds that apps might not affect data equivalence as long as the intended clinical application of the survey questionnaire, its intended frequency of administration and the setting in which it was validated remain unchanged.

*Full text available with an OpenAthens password for eligible users*

*The digital doctor report 2015*

*7th August 2015*  
*Source: Ipsos Healthcare*

Health systems across Europe are facing challenges with an ageing population, enduring chronic health conditions and limited budgets. Digital health is often cited as the opportunity to help bridge the gap between optimum healthcare delivery and efficiency of service; however this cannot be achieved without healthcare professionals’ input and support. This report seeks to uncover how doctors feel about digital health, and how they see its role developing in the future.

*Improving recruitment to a study of telehealth management for long-term conditions in primary care: two embedded, randomised controlled trials of optimised patient information materials*

*19th July 2015*  
*Source: Trials Journal*

The aim of this study was to investigate the effect on recruitment of optimised patient information materials (with improved readability and ease of comprehension) compared with standard materials. The study was embedded within two primary care trials involving patients with long-term conditions. The *Healthlines* Study involves two linked trials evaluating a telehealth intervention in patients with depression (*Healthlines Depression*) or raised cardiovascular disease risk (*Healthlines CVD*). We conducted two trials of a recruitment intervention, embedded within the *Healthlines* host trials.
Powerful people: Reinforcing the power of citizens and communities in health and care.
22nd July 2015
Source: Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)

This report argues for giving citizens greater control over their own health and care, so that services are redesigned around their needs and aspirations, to improve health outcomes, and to save money by supporting people better to manage their conditions themselves.

The future of primary care Creating teams for tomorrow.
July 2015
Source: Primary Care Workforce Commission

The Primary Care Workforce Commission wanted to identify and highlight innovative models of primary care that will meet the future needs of patients and the NHS. This report sets out the Commission’s thinking which includes calling for greater collaboration across organisations and a broader range of staff involved in the delivery of healthcare.

The use of telemedicine to address access and physician workforce shortages
28th July 2015
Source: Embase

The use of telemedicine technologies by primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists (henceforth referred to as “pediatric physicians”) has the potential to transform the practice of pediatrics. The purpose of this policy statement is to describe the expected and potential impact that telemedicine will have on pediatric physicians’ efforts to improve access and physician workforce shortages. The policy statement also describes how the American Academy of Pediatrics can advocate for its members and their patients to best use telemedicine technologies to improve access to care, provide more patient-and family-centered care, increase efficiencies in practice, enhance the quality of care, and address projected shortages in the clinical workforce.

Will NHS.UK be the next GOV.UK?
3rd September 2015
Source: The King’s Fund

NHS.UK is set to become the place we go, not just for information about health and local services, but to book appointments, manage repeat prescriptions and access health records and care plans. James Higgett agrees this needs to be done but doesn't think it's going to be easy.

Interactive telemedicine: effects on professional practice and healthcare outcomes
Gerd Flogren; Antoine Rachas; Andrew J. Farmer; Marco Inzitari; Sasha Shepperd Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2015; 9: CD002098

Telemedicine uses telecommunication systems to deliver health care at a distance. This method of delivering health care may improve patient outcomes, access to health care and reduce costs. It is important to understand the impact that care at a distance via telemedicine might have on patients, healthcare professionals and the organisation of care.

Full text available with an OpenAthens password for eligible users
Exploring demographic and lifestyle associations with patient experience following telephone triage by a primary care doctor or nurse: secondary analyses from a cluster randomised controlled trial.

Warren FC. BMJ Quality & Safety 2015; 24(9):572-582.

Background: The ESTEEM trial was a cluster randomised controlled trial that compared two telephone triage management systems (general practitioner (GP) or a nurse supported by computer decision support software) with usual care, in response to a request for same-day consultation in general practice.

New regional telehealth scheme to support patients at home

Ford, Steve Nursing Times 19 August 2015: 5089954

A major telehealth programme has been launched in Cheshire with the aim of helping improve self-management by patients with long-term conditions.

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