



Teledialysis

Getting started...

"GETTING STARTED", a brochure for new users of teledialysis.

What is videoconferencing?

Videoconferencing is an online service involving a two-way ("point-to-point") or multidirectional ("multipoint") audiovisual link.

All the parties involved can see and hear each other at the same time. The patient is in one studio with the local doctor or nurse, while the specialist staff are in another studio.

Basic videoconferencing equipment needed:

- A codec microchip for data compression
- Monitor with speakers
- Camera
- Microphone

Network (IP or ISDN)

Connection to a health network for the use of IP-based videoconferencing equipment and software. Alternatively, ISDN-based videoconferencing equipment can be used on its own.

Equipment that may be connected to the videoconferencing unit:

- Ultrasound equipment
- Electronic stethoscope

Software:

Dialysis involves advanced medical technology, and requires continuous monitoring at the location where treatment takes place. The dialysis software is used during patient rounds, in communication between the nurses, and for follow-up and monitoring of patients by both nurses and doctors.

To get started:

Contact the Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine (NST) at telephone +47 41 62 47 25 or e-mail: tjenester@telemed.no This will bring you into direct contact with staff who provide support to users of telemedical services. Here, you can have your questions answered and receive the help you need to get started. NST has published a handbook in Norwegian for new users of teledialysis.

Fees and possibilities for funding:

The scale of fees is intended to provide for fair remuneration to both the GP and the specialist. For GPs in Norway, there are currently (2002) no specific fees for telemedicine. The fee schedule for GPs and doctors in private practice specifies two rates for patient contributions:

- 2ad (d for day) Consultation with a GP, where the patient pays NOK 114,-
- 3ad (d for day) Consultation with a specialist, where the patient pays NOK 200,-

If additional time is spent because of telemedical services, it is possible to claim the 2cd consultation fee as well: NOK 103,-.

The Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine:

- uses the EU definition of telemedicine:

"... the investigation, monitoring, treatment and management of patients and the education of patients and staff using systems which allow ready access to expert advice and patient information no matter where the patient or relevant information is located."

Telemedicine solutions contribute to a more equitable distribution of health services, as a larger part of the population has easier access to specialists and many patients do not need to travel.

The NST's services are free of charge for the public health service and GPs in Norway.

CONTACT

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Also contact the section responsible for health care in your municipality and the head of IT services for more information about plans for telemedicine.



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