

INTERNET TECHNOLOGY IN HOME CARE

K Axelsson

Department of Health Science
Luleå University of Technology
Email: Karin.Axelsson@ltu.se

In Sweden in the last few years healthcare has come to be increasingly provided to persons living at home. Today there is a reduction of beds in hospital and the time spent there can be as little as a few days. In general when the acute medical care is in a stable phase the person is judged as finished with medical care in hospital and in principle ready for discharge.

The aim of this presentation is to present an area for research and example of some studies when Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is used in nursing care to persons living in their homes.

The county council is responsible for the primary healthcare and the municipality is responsible for the social services. Registered nurses (RNs) are responsible for the healthcare, including nursing and medical care, in healthcare centers and in the municipalities. RNs visit the persons at their homes to give nursing as well as medical care. Quite often during a visit to a person's home they meet a situation when they need assessments and their results and perhaps a consultation with a physician. The RNs have the competence to perform measurements and interventions but very often they need results from assessments before they can act. When this is troublesome often the person is sent into a hospital for safety reasons or the person is sent to a healthcare center for assessments.

As the number and proportion of elderly increases there is a need to evaluate means to deliver adequate healthcare that is adapted to those persons who prefer to be cared for in their homes. There is important to study the consequences for the RNs and physicians when using ICT in home care.