

The Development of Telemedicine in China and Our Recent Achievement

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Abstract

In this article, we reveal that telemedicine is developing very fast in our country, and we show our recent achievement in this paper, which is called Regional Collaborative Medical Service (RCMS).

Keywords:

Telemedicine, RCMS, China, Medinfo 2010.

Introduction

As the largest developing country with a population of 1.3 billion, China is also speeding up its steps to develop telemedicine. In this paper, we first study the history of telemedicine in China including some successful projects and cases, and then we present the current level of telemedicine in China as well as a prospect of its future.

Development of Telemedicine in China

1986, Guangzhou Ocean Shipping Company started to make use of remote diagnosis for its crew via telegram. 1988, Chinese PLA General Hospital held a teleconference with a German hospital via satellite communication. 1994, Shanghai medical school completed a teleconsultant project, which demonstrated the teleconsultant between Shanghai Huasan Hospital and Shanghai Jiaotong University via telephone lines. 1995, a girl was rotting for unknown reason. Since the doctors had never dealt with a similar case, they sought for international help through the internet, and soon they got more than 200 pieces of information from around the world. 1997, the first real-time teleconsultation between China and the US occurred. In recent years, telemedicine in China has developed quickly with the rapid growth of telecommunication networks. China now has three major telemedicine networks: the Golden Health Network (GHN), the International MedioNet of China (IMNC) network and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) telemedicine network.

Future of Telemedicine in China

After the outbreak of the SARS epidemic in 2003, China started to pay more attention to the construction of regional collaborative medical service (RCMS), which is also known as e-Health. Telemedicine running on the platform of RCMS would bring more efficiency and convenience. Several im-

provements can be achieved, such as extra communication facilities are no longer needed. By retrieving the medical documents in the system of RCMS, more information can be obtained for experts.

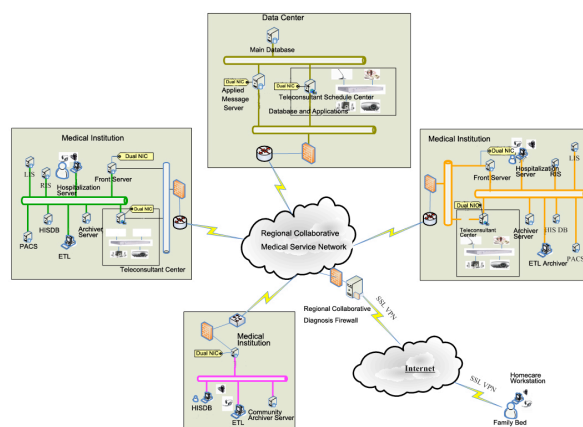


Figure 1- Architecture of Regional Collaborative Medical Service

Conclusion

With the development of telecommunication and computer science and technology, telemedicine in China has been through an evolution from MIS to HIS, then to the recent RCMS.

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