



TELEMEDICINE

Telemedicine is the use of electronic communication and information technologies to provide health care when distance separates medical specialists from the patient. The application of the digital revolution in health care not only addresses the perennial problems of accessibility, availability, affordability, and travel but also reduces the cost of delivery of primary and outpatient specialist's health care. The concept of Telemedicine can also be put use for promotive and educational use in support of health care such as distance learning in health, spread awareness about AIDS, Maternal and Child, Nutrition and Immunization and priming of community in health issues.

With the rapid growth of Internet the tele-health transmissions of all types of data including Web transfer of text, audio, video images through dedicated communication channels will speed up the facility as well as increase the accessibility of specialist's opinion to the remote places from the specialist's hub in the city. This saves a lot of expenses and the inconvenience of traveling and especially useful at a time when a patient is critically ill and delay in administration of treatment could mean a difference between life and death for a patient.

The optic fibre cable, the back-borne of communication and IT systems in Konkan Railway will be transmitting the text, audio and video images at 2 mbps. This will not only increase the speed of transmission but also would give online high-resolution real like images. The telemedicine has been installed at Ratnagiri.

As a part of Corporate Social Responsibility a remote telemedicine centre has also been implemented at Gokarna for the benefit of villagers abutting the station, who will get specialist advice from Mumbai.

Apart from Konkan Railway, Telemedicine has been installed at Badarpur (Lumbding Division) Rangapara (Rangia Division), Guwahati in North Frontier Railway connecting them to Chennai. Chennai also provides specialists care through Telemedicine to Hajipur, Sonpur, Danapur in East Central Railway. All Divisions of Western Railway - Mumbai Central, Baroda, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Godhra, Ratlam, Ahmedabad, Nandurbar, Valsad, have been connected to Jagjivan Ram Hospital.

What is a Telemedicine Centre?

A typical Telemedicine Centre (TMC) will contain -

The images of the X-ray, ECG and pathology tests are transmitted on-line to the Specialist Hub and their respective reports are available without any delay.

The Doctor examines different parts of the patient's body using computer compatible equipments. The images as seen by the naked eye, can be seen on a monitor and are attached to the patient's file, for online transmission to the consultant at the Specialist hub. The picture captured and transmitted are of real life quality with minute details and colors. Therefore, are accurate for appropriate diagnosis.

The patient dossier (audiovisual text file) consisting of the images, sounds and data is transmitted to the Specialist Hub through our optic fibre cable for diagnosis and treatment.

Thus the Specialist now, has the complete medical history, images and data and can talk to the patient and the doctor examining the patient and advise further investigations or examinations required or give the diagnosis and treatment.

Thus the best medical advice is available to the patient at his doorstep without having to run around.