

# Promoting Quality Standards in Telehealth Services

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Telehealth  
Quality  
Group

# Telehealth: Different Ages, Different Contexts, Different Technologies



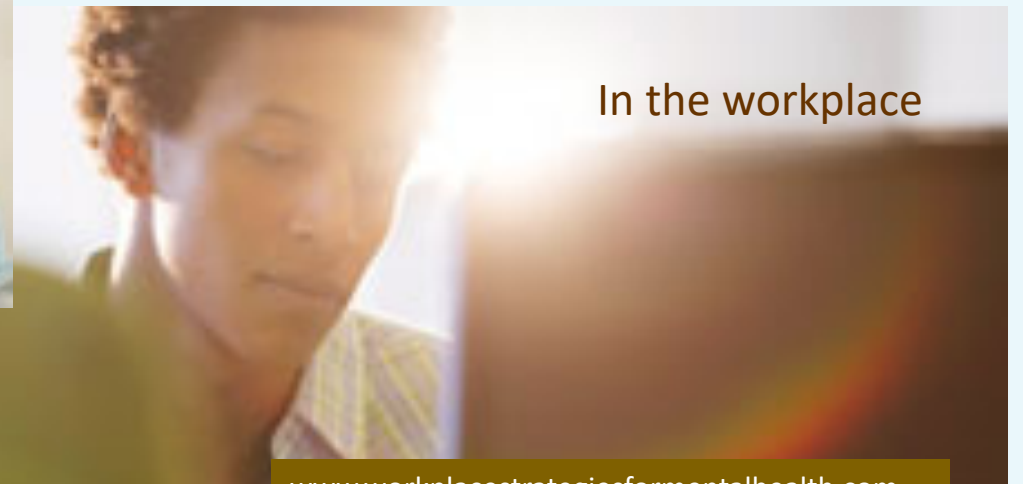
Away  
from  
home

[guardianlv.com](http://guardianlv.com)



At home

[bt.com](http://bt.com)



In the workplace

[www.workplacestrategiesformentalhealth.com](http://www.workplacestrategiesformentalhealth.com)





# Ethical Tenets for Standards

[www.progressivestandards.org](http://www.progressivestandards.org)

## Accessibility and Usability

Relevant for buildings, wider environment, products and services - therefore assistive technologies, 'Design for All' and Age-Friendly communities.

## Affordability

Impacting on the 'accessibility' of products and services for people with limited means.

## Autonomy and Empowerment

Imperative for products and services to be designed and configured in ways that engage with, afford choices and facilitate control by older people.

## Beneficence and Non-Maleficence

Context for any products or services. Relates to assessment of risks and doing good or harm.

## Care, Protection and Support

Relevance for products or services provided for or used by dependent, frail and vulnerable older people.

## Equality, Equity and Justice

Affirming the equal status and right of older people to access products and services. Links with accessibility and affordability.

## Inclusion, Non-Discrimination and Social Impact

Product and service approaches to challenge disadvantage faced by older people through inappropriate and ageist practices and beliefs.

## Interoperability

Embracing both technical (for ICT) and semantic interoperability to support products and services with enhanced consumer options and choices.





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## Autonomy and Empowerment

Imperative for products and services to be designed and configured in ways that facilitate control by older people.

## Beneficence and Non-Maleficence

Context for any products or services. Relates to assessment of risks and benefits.

## Care, Protection and Support

Relevance for products or services that support and protect older and vulnerable older people.

## Equality, Equity and Justice

Affirming the equal rights of older people to access products and services. Links with accessibility and affordability.

## Inclusion, Non-Discrimination and Respect

Product and service approaches that challenge disadvantage faced by older people through inappropriate and ageist practices and beliefs.

## Interoperability

Embracing both technical (for ICT) and semantic interoperability to support products and services with enhanced consumer options and choices.

## Privacy, Safety and Security

Recognising rights in the context of 'traditional' ranges of products and services and special considerations (e.g. for cybersecurity) for ICT.

**Conceived in context of older people –  
but relevant to people of all ages**



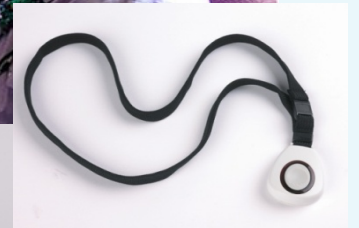
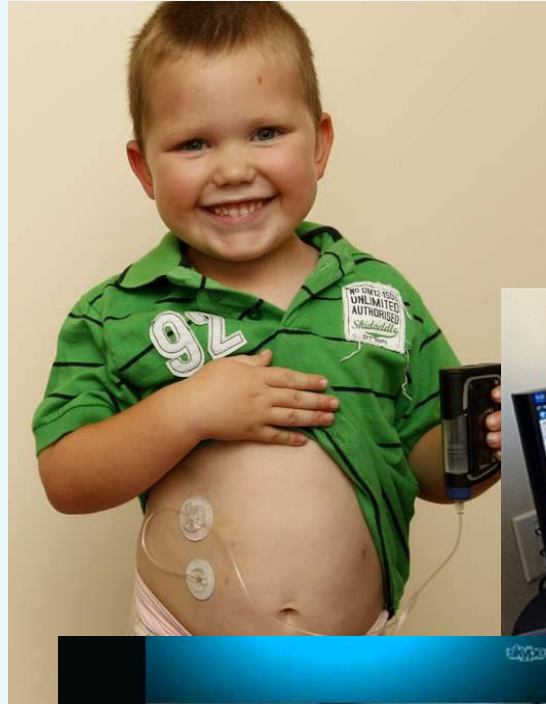


# Telehealth is ...

Telehealth is  
... the means by which  
technologies and related  
services that are  
concerned with health and  
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them at a distance  
irrespective of their  
location  
(TQG definition)

... a subset of eHealth  
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[www.telehealth.global](http://www.telehealth.global)



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# Telehealth Domains

Health and motivational coaching  
Activity, behavioural and lifestyle monitoring  
Gait, seizure and falls monitoring  
Point of care testing, and support for diagnoses/decision  
making  
Vital signs monitoring  
mHealth  
Prompting for medication or therapy adherence  
Rehabilitation and (re)ablement  
Responding to 'events'  
Tele-consultation  
... and (much) more

# Current Standards

1998	ASAP Code of Practice	Social Alarms	UK
2003/16	EN 50134	Social Alarm Systems	EU
2007/16	UNE 158401	Servicio Asistencia	Spain
2009	Code of Practice	PER Services	Australia
2011	VDE AR E 2757-2	Staying at Home	Germany
2011	Code of Practice	Telecare Services	New Zealand
2012	Guidelines	eHealth: Telehealth	Australia
2012	Quality Mark	Personal Alarm Services	Netherlands
2013/17	TSA Code of Practice	Telecare and Telehealth	UK
2013	NF X50-520	Téléassistance	France
2014	Standard	Telehealth	Canada
2014	Guidelines	Telehealth	US
2014	ISO TS 13131	Telehealth Services	US
2014/19	TQG Code of Practice	Telehealth Services	EU and International
2019?	CEN Standard	Service Chain Social Alarms	EU



# Key Ingredients of Effective Standards

- **Need to escape from formulaic standards approaches because ...**
  - variability and personal nature of needs addressed*
  - variability in interventions and treatments*
  - range of lifestyle challenges with health implications (obesity, diabetes to COPD, CHF and frailty)*
  - people's wish to interact with health services in new ways (new technologies being clear choice)*
- **Need to guard against narrow influence of commercial bodies**
  - ensuring voice of people, patients, consumers / service users is heard in standardisation process*
- **Need to make sense of rapid development of apps ...**
  - from those supporting healthy lifestyles (fitness, medication prompts, etc.) to those supporting treatment (through collection and sharing of vital signs and well-being measures)*
- **Need to protect against information (cyber-) security risks**
  - personal devices, services, systems*
  - phishing, ransomware, theft or loss, etc.*
  - ... for essential trust in health services to be maintained*

# In Summary

- **Context is changing...**  
*but it is one that is full of opportunity for telehealth*
- **Technologies hold the key**  
*to the ways in which people will be able to access telehealth services of the future*
- **New protocols need to be put in place**  
*as part of new ways of working, safeguarding providers and users*
- **Effective Standards**  
*can provide broader framework and guide the way for protocol development and implementation initiatives such as the*
  - ▶ **PROGRESSIVE project**
  - ▶ **TQG International Code of Practice for Telehealth Services**  
*... can show the way – putting the people not the profiteers first! ● ●*



**Thank You!**  
**Diolch yn Fawr**

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