



# Video Conferencing for Chronic Disease Management



Chronic disease management requires frequent interaction among patients, primary care providers, specialists, and other community resources. If ongoing care and support is easily accessible, affordable, and responsible, patients are more likely to remain with in management program and keep the disease in check.

## Issue

**The need for generalists to consult with specialists as they monitor chronic conditions**

**The need to improve care for home-bound patients**

**The need to connect chronic disease patients with support groups**

## The Solution

Video conferencing can connect general practitioners with specialists who can consult from anywhere in the world for the best chronic disease management available. Once an initial treatment plan has been devised by a specialist, a local generalist can often monitor the patient without requiring the rural patient to make long and expensive trips to see the specialist throughout treatment. The generalist can consult with the specialist over video conferencing to report any updates and make any necessary changes to the treatment program. This makes more frequent doctor's visits possible and hopefully leads to better outcomes.

Specialists can use video conferencing to monitor patients at home. More frequent check-ins will hopefully catch problems before they become serious and require more drastic interventions.

Video conferencing can connect chronic disease patients and their families with virtual support groups and resources. This type of informal treatment can help provide additional information outlets and help patients monitor themselves.

## WHAT ARE YOUR NEEDS?

- Could local health clinics better serve those with chronic diseases with a specialist just a video conference away?
- Are your specialists spending more time travelling from clinic to clinic and less time treating patients?
- Do students at your school based health care centres need access to specialists to help with the management of a chronic illness?
- Would you like to offer support groups to chronic disease patients and families who may be geographically dispersed or have transportation difficulties?

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