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To UEMO Working Group on Medical Informatics
From Dr. Joop Blaauw, the Netherlands
Subject Draft Statements for the UEMO on Telematics./Telemedicine
Date 27 September 2002

- 1 Primary care of good quality cannot be provided without using ICT.
This means that using ICT in daily practice is mandatory. An example: high quality medication support is only possible if medication, diagnoses etc. are electronically stored.
- 2 Using ICT will have profound effects on daily practice (business process redesign).
- 3 The *contract to provide medical treatment* between GP and patient should describe specific requirements to ensure **adequate medical registration**.
- 4 Adequate medical registration covers:
 - confidentiality
 - safe storage and handling of information
 - agreement about the use of data by third parties (e.g. other care providers, research)
 - quality of information (for internal and external use), e.g. using specific codes and rules for diagnoses, prescriptions, etc.Certification of GP systems (and GP's themselves?) may be an option to ensure adequate implementation.
- 5 The term 'ownership' cannot be used with regard to the information in the EMR.
The rights and duties should be defined, the GP having the duty of maintaining a professional EMR, the patient having the right of access to information, and the right to add/modify/delete information, all within certain limits.
- 6 For e-mail communication with patients (and for telemedicine in general) the 'CP Guidelines for e-mail correspondence' (November 2001) should be adopted.

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