KIWANJA.NET
MINDFUL SOCIAL CHANGE

MOBILE DATABASE · PROJECT

ENACQKT NURSES KNOWLEGDE

Author / organisation	University of Saskatchewan
Year recorded	2009
Region	Americas · Dominica, Dominican Republic, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis
Category	Health, Education
Archive page	kiwanja.net/mobile-database/enacqkt-nurses-knowlegde/

This document is part of the kiwanja.net Mobile Database, an archive of more than 700 articles, reports and projects on mobile technology for development, collected between 2003 and 2010. It is reproduced here for reference; the original author's rights are retained.

Explore more. Browse the full archive at kiwanja.net/mobile-database.
Looking for support with your own social change work? See kiwanja.net/work-with-me.
Ken Banks offers coaching, mentoring and strategy support.

ENACQKT: Enhancing Nurses Access for Care Quality and Knowledge through Technology

Project Leader: Pammla Petrucka

Institution: University of Saskatchewan

Region: Caribbean

Start Date: 2008-07

Project Details

WSIS Action lines: 3, 4, 5, 7

Context: Why is this project important?
Although information and communication technologies (ICTs) are increasingly available in the Caribbean, the health care culture tends toward traditional, paper-based, labour-intensive mechanisms. Increased use of ICTs could potentially facilitate point-of-care access to information and evidence-based decision-making regarding treatment. This project grew out of an earlier initiative that supported the use of a simple, proven ICT infrastructure and toolkit (personal digital assistant-PDA, wireless connectivity, relevant software) to address the clinical quality of care.

The Project: How does this initiative address the development problem?
ENACQKT will focus on clinical and educational applications related to three major health challenges for the five participating islands, namely HIV/AIDS, Diabetes and Hypertension, all of which are among the leading causes of death among countries in the region. It is anticipated that indirect benefits on patient outcomes will be seen throughout the course of this project. The project will test innovative ICT applications to identify, measure and analyze the role of ICTs in responds to these key health threats, with a focus on marginalized populations. There are identifiable marginalized/isolated groups within the various participating islands. Two of the groups (Indigenous population and geographically isolated) will be considered in a sub-component of the project.

General Objective:
To assess the role and impact of innovative ICTs such as PDA2W in enhancing clinical practice and patient care through access to relevant health care information (ICT-mediated) within select public hospitals in the four Caribbean countries (i.e. Dominica, Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis).

Specific Objectives:
- To demonstrate and analyze the use of the PDA2W system and integrated applications in enhancing quality patient care for identified specific conditions (i.e., diabetes, hypertension, HIV/AIDS) based on regional protocols and standards.

- To research and build capacity of the end-users (i.e., nurses; student nurses) with the PDA2W network to facilitate its appropriation and contributions to quality of care and quality of work life through applications and technology including podcasting, NurseONE and ongoing training monitoring.

- To test and analyze the use of mobile telephony and remote monitoring in two selected areas targeting marginalized populations.

- To develop a model aimed at local and regional policy and decision makers based on the project's findings, that demonstrates and facilitates integration of ICTs across the spectrum from Point of Care to Health Information Management Systems within the Caribbean context.

Development Impact:
As the project has just recently started, its development impact cannot be assessed at this time.

Outputs:
All publications and materials related to this project will be listed here as they become available.

News

Launching of a project on PDAs and nursing in the Caribbean 2009-03-01
The University of Saskatchewan announced a $1.15 million initiative – supported by IDRC – to provide nurses in developing regions of the Caribbean with access to personal digital assistants and wireless networks.