TITLE: Appropriate Use of Hand-Held Wireless Devices in Health Care Settings: Guidelines

DATE: 14 May 2014

RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the evidence-based guidelines associated with the appropriate use of hand-held wireless devices for the delivery of patient care in a variety of health care settings?

KEY MESSAGE

Four systematic reviews were identified regarding the use and effectiveness of hand-held wireless devices for the delivery of patient care in a variety of health care settings.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2014, Issue 5), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses and guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2009 and May 7, 2014. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by evidence-based guidelines.

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Four systematic reviews were identified regarding the use and effectiveness of hand-held wireless devices for the delivery of patient care in a variety of health care settings. No health technology assessment reports, meta-analyses, or evidence-based guidelines were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Four systematic reviews\textsuperscript{1-4} were identified regarding the use and effectiveness of hand-held wireless devices for the delivery of patient care in a variety of clinical settings.

The use of mobile devices in general,\textsuperscript{3} and personal digital assistants (PDAs) in particular,\textsuperscript{1} was associated with increased accuracy and completeness of patient data collection. One systematic review\textsuperscript{1} reported that the appropriateness of diagnoses improved with the use of PDAs, but the results of another systematic review\textsuperscript{2} demonstrated that diagnoses made from mobile device-based photos were significantly less accurate compared with those made via traditional methods.

Wireless device use may offer some efficiencies and improvements in workflow management for health care workers\textsuperscript{1-4} and improved clinical outcomes for patients;\textsuperscript{1} however, there was insufficient evidence to conclude the extent of this effect\textsuperscript{4} or to provide specific guidelines for their appropriate use.\textsuperscript{1}
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses


Guidelines and Recommendations
No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

Patterns of Wireless Device Use in Health Care Delivery


Guidelines and Recommendations

Position Statements and Best Practice Guidelines with Unclear Methodology


Security and Confidentiality


Review Articles


Additional References


Security


Environmental Scan