TITLE: Wireless and Mobile Device Access for Patients in Healthcare Settings: Clinical Benefit and Evidence-Based Guidelines

DATE: 04 August 2016

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical evidence regarding the clinical benefit of access to wireless and mobile devices for patients in health care settings?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding access to wireless and mobile devices for patients in health care settings?

KEY FINDINGS

No relevant literature was identified regarding the clinical benefit of, or guidelines regarding, access to wireless and mobile devices for patients in health care settings.

METHODS

A limited literature search, with main concepts appearing in title, abstract or major subject heading, was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. To address research question one; no filters were applied to the main search to limit the retrieval by study type. To address research question two, methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to guidelines. Retrieval was limited to the human population where possible, and English-language documents published between January 1, 2011 and July 28, 2016. Internet links were provided, where available.

SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.
Table 1: Selection Criteria

<table>
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<th>Population</th>
<th>Patients in any health care delivery setting (hospital, ICU, long term care, outpatient clinics, other clinics, etc.)</th>
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<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Wireless and Mobile Devices for personal use (cell phones, smart phones, iPads, tablets, laptops, computers with wireless capabilities, two way radios, voice-over-internet-protocol (VOIP), call bells, wireless internet)</td>
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| Comparator | Q1: No wireless or mobile device use; Ban on the use; No active comparator  
Q2: No comparator |
| Outcomes | Q1: Patient satisfaction; Patient quality of life; Benefits in length of stay or other clinical outcomes; Positive patient impact  
Q2: Guidelines or recommendations regarding patient access to mobile and wireless devices during their health care stay or experience |
| Study Designs | Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines |

RESULTS

No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified regarding the clinical benefit of access to wireless and mobile devices for patients in health care settings. In addition, no relevant evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding access to wireless and mobile devices for patients in health care settings.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations
No literature identified.

PREPARED BY:
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health
Tel: 1-866-898-8439
www.cadth.ca
APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Previous CADTH Reports


Non-Randomized Studies

Qualitative Study


Alternate Outcomes


Case Report


Mobile Devices for Hospital Guidance

Review Articles


Additional References

Letter to the Editor