

Facts

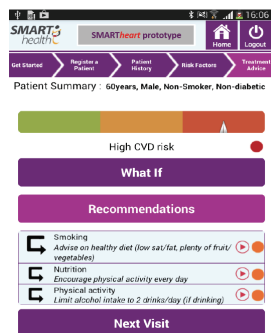
- About 5 billion internet subscribers worldwide, with more than 70% of them in low-and-middle income countries.
- 68% of adults worldwide own mobile phones.
- The World Health Organization says that 80% of countries have at least one type of mHealth service.
- Inadequate focus on health system strengthening is one of the biggest barriers to mHealth having a transformative effect on health outcomes.

Partners:

National Health Medical and Research Council (NHMRC), Australia
The George Institute for Global Health
AWASH
CASH, UK
MRC, UK

Supporters:

Qualcomm® Wireless Reach™
Bupa



Background:

- The use of mobile technology (mHealth) to improve access to healthcare and health outcomes is booming worldwide.
- mHealth can include anything from appointment reminders, call centres and emergency telephone services to mobile telemedicine and highly-sophisticated real time decision support.

Aims:

- To find innovative ways for mobile technology to improve access to affordable and effective healthcare.
- To connect communities to their healthcare providers and services and promote community and patient centred care.

Projects:

- FoodSwitch empowers families to identify healthier food choices via their smartphone and provides policy makers essential food quality information.
- The China Center for mHealth Innovation (CCmHI) has been established to further advance mHealth initiatives in China.
- SMARThealth is a primary care ecosystem harnessing mHealth technology to provide high quality healthcare by a low cost re-engineered workforce in India.
- SMARThealth platforms have been shown to improve cardiovascular risk management in Australia; large-scale studies in India and China are underway.
- TEXTME & TEXTMEDS support lifestyle behaviour and medication adherence for Australian CVD patients, via a text message service.
- Support-HF is assessing an IT-supported home-care system for UK heart failure patients via real time data analysis and decision support.

Impact:

- While mHealth has the potential to be transformative globally, low and middle income countries have the greatest potential to benefit from such innovation.
- In countries with sizeable rural and remote communities like Australia, India and China, mHealth has the potential to reduce intrinsic barriers to healthcare access is also substantial.
- mHealth initiatives often support individuals; the greatest potential is in improving the efficiency, quality and access to healthcare services.

Contact

To find out more about our mHealth programs and or The George Institute for Global Health please contact:

Julia Timms +61 410 411 983
jtimms@georgeinstitute.org.au
www.ccmhi.org.cn

The George Institute For Global Health

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