

## The future of chronic diseases: into the digital age

E-health for chronic diseases is coming of age in the EU. Today, the potential of e-health is beginning to be realised as hospitals, doctors and patients come to use and rely on e-health tools to deliver and support healthcare provision in the area of chronic diseases.

Chronic diseases are one of the biggest budget items for healthcare systems, so the ability of e-health tools to bring both clinical and cost benefits to healthcare systems is of interest to many actors in the healthcare arena.

But what does this mean for the future of healthcare? What are the remaining barriers? Many questions remain unanswered about important topics such as public awareness, patient take-up, financing, regulatory barriers and the roles for the various industries and professionals.

The European Commission is currently finalising a Communication on "Telemedicine and Innovative ICT Tools for Chronic Disease Management", due to be published before the end of 2008.

### *Practical details*

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**Guest Speaker:** Flora Giorgio of the ICT for Health Unit of the European Commission's DG Information Society

**Date & Time:** Thursday 18 September 2008 from 12.30 to 14.30

**Venue:** Fleishman-Hillard Office - Square de Meeûs 35 - 1000 Brussels

*A sandwich lunch will be provided. While this event is free to attend, participant numbers are limited, so early registration is recommended.*

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Nowadays, technology allows people with chronic diseases, for example diabetes, to use e-health tools to undertake self-monitoring, the results of which can be sent to their physician electronically. By analysing the clinical data received from the patient, the physician can assess whether or it is necessary for the patient to have a check-up. This can result in a reduction in doctor visits for the patient and savings to the healthcare system.