

EHEALTH, ICT AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH REPORTED HEALTH OUTCOMES IN THE EU COUNTRIES

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Keywords: Ehealth, ICT, health outcomes, linear model.

Objectives: This work aims firstly to describe the ehealth and ICT characteristics in EU; secondly, to test if health outcomes are correlated with ehealth adoption at primary care level and with ICT development.

Method: The first part of this analysis is mainly descriptive about the ICT Development Index (ITU, 2014), and the eHealth index at GP level (Codagnone and Lupiañez-Villanueva, 2013). The second is based on linear regression analysis, and it tests the potential relation between ehealth adoption and ICT development, the inputs, and health outcomes. Data used is for the 28 EU countries.

Results: One feature arising from descriptive analysis is that the leader groups of countries are similar to those found by Currie and Seddon (2014). The most important results show that there is no significant relation between self-reported health outcomes and ICT and ehealth indices, except for the people who self-reported chronic illness or long standing health problem. It is also shown that the percentage of people with secondary education does not explain health outcomes.

Conclusions: Chronic patients need continuous health care and the result found here may be capturing a potential link between these patients and health care that is being created through ICT technologies. The main policy recommendation is the promotion of ICT and ehealth at primary care, in particular, aimed for people suffering from chronic diseases.

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