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DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN DIABETES CARE: COMPARISON OF ITS OUTCOMES ON CLINICAL AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS IN THE NHS WHEN COMPARED TO STANDARD METHODS OF CARE

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Taking into account of the growing need for digitalisation, there are some emerging innovative players in this field coming up with innovative technology to cater for better communication between primary and secondary care, as well as between providers and service users. There are, however, challenges to be met. Innovative entrepreneurs are in the process of collecting evidence to study the effects of their innovation on clinical and cost-effectiveness of the use of digital technology in the health care setting. The main aim of this work is to establish the correlation between digital transformation in diabetes care, effects on patient care and cost-effectiveness with this intervention. The population studied was limited to Internet users with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. Subject population were between the ages of 16 and 65 years. A literature review was conducted for published articles surrounding this topic. The findings were collated and compared with the standard methods of communication and engagement between clinician colleagues as well as between clinicians and patients. Further analysis was undertaken in terms of financial expenditures and potential savings for the NHS over short-term and long-term period. Whilst there is emerging evidence of reduction in appointment waiting times, number of appointments, hospital attendances, acute hospitalisations and ambulance call outs, the overall cost-effectiveness in the primary and secondary care settings has not been established in the short-term. Further research is required to analyse the effectiveness in terms of patient safety and costs incurred by these interventions. It is imperative that the health care sector responds to the increasing demand for medical digitalisation in diabetes care and work to critique and improve in this field is essential.