

TELEMEDICINE IN SWITZERLAND: COMPLEMENTING RATHER THAN COMPETING WITH LOCAL DOCTORS

In Switzerland, telemedicine has already been firmly established in the healthcare system for over 20 years. The question often arises as to whether telemedicine represents competition for local doctors.

The reality is, however, that telemedicine is not intended to replace traditional medical practice, but to complement and enhance it.

THE ROLE OF TELEMEDICINE IN SWITZERLAND

In Switzerland, telemedicine has made considerable progress in recent years. Telemedicine represents an important complement to traditional healthcare, particularly in a country with a varied geographical landscape, four national languages and many isolated regions.

TELEMEDICINE AS A COMPLEMENT TO THE TRADITIONAL PRACTICE

Telemedicine is particularly valuable in rural and outlying areas of Switzerland, where access to medical care can be limited. Instead of competition, telemedicine here offers local doctors a platform for monitoring their patients, or having them monitored by third-party partners such as telemedicine institutes. It enables doctors to treat their patients even when the practice is closed, when visits are not possible or, for example, in the event of pandemic restrictions or for logistical reasons.

BENEFITS OF TELEMEDICINE FOR DOCTORS AND PATIENTS

1. greater accessibility:
2. more efficient use of resources
3. continuous monitoring via remote surveillance

TELEMEDICINE AND THE SWISS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Switzerland is renowned for its high-quality healthcare system.

Telemedicine helps to maintain this level and improve accessibility. The increasing digitization of the healthcare system means that telemedicine services can be combined with day-to-day practice activities, without losing personal contact with patients.

CONCERNS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Some self-employed doctors fear that telemedicine will affect personal contact and quality of care. These concerns are to be taken seriously, but can be allayed by targeted measures. One approach is to clearly define the areas of application for telemedicine. Not all medical problems can be solved by digital means, and it is essential to respect the limits of telemedicine.

CONCLUSION: SYNERGY RATHER THAN COMPETITION

Telemedicine and traditional medical practices are not in competition, On the contrary, they can complement and enrich each other. Thanks to its progressive approaches and willingness to digitize the healthcare sector, Switzerland is in an excellent position to continue exploiting the full benefits of telemedicine. Thanks to well-thought-out integration and an open attitude to new technologies, local doctors and telemedicine centers can continue to work together to improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare.



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