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e-Health Implications of Designed for Life (Wales)

The delivery of modern health and social care is dependent on modern Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Without it, the systematic and wholesale change we need will be significantly hampered. This will be taken forward through the work on the electronic staff record, *Informing Healthcare* and *Informing Social Care* initiatives, the Assembly's strategy for corporate health information and the financial information strategy. Progress towards delivering the existing strategy will be appraised by March 2006.

Medical and technological advances will mean that services currently provided only in hospital will be provided close to home in local neighbourhoods.

Greater use of technology and tele-health will reduce the need for hospital visits or residential care and home testing kits will be used more.

Assessment and investigations will be conducted locally and results stored electronically so that they do not need to be repeated.

Using the latest technology, diagnostic services will move test requests and results, images and information from patient to service centres to specialists, so that equipment is used to full capacity and results are available much more quickly.

Electronic records will make care faster and safer and allow people to monitor the quality of their own care.

High technology links with specialist hospitals will ensure that patients/clients are seen in centres of excellence quickly and as locally as possible.

Electronic versions can be found at: www.wales.gov.uk/subihealth/index.htm