Telemedicine Service in Middle East

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Presentation Title: Telemedicine Service in Middle East Region

Abstract:

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Objective

Studying the impact of telemedicine in reducing the healthcare servicing time among the different age groups in Middle East and the role of insurance and patient's awareness in spreading Telemedicine business market in Middle East

Method

Survey for 100 participants with age between 18 – 60 years old living in Middle East Region

Results

80 % of the survey participants agreed that Telemedicine will reduce the wasting time they spent in traveling and in waiting room to see the doctors, while 20 % didn't believe in that

78% of the participants are ready to get the service as long as it's covered by the insurance while 22 % agreed to pay cash for the Telemedicine consultation

About 75% of the participants still see that the physical examination is important to reach an accurate diagnosis while 25 % trusted in the accuracy of video consultation

Conclusions

The Information and Communication Technologies revolution greatly affected the Healthcare industry worldwide during the last ten years. It is clearly observed that telemedicine represents reasonable resolutions to present day challenges such as the growing demand for health services, the aging of the Population or the need to manage large amounts of information, among others [(1)].

My research findings that using telemedicine will reduce the patient waiting time. In US cities, the patient spent only 20 minutes with the doctor adding to it 101 minutes spent in time traveling to and from the clinic and time in the waiting room, giving around 121 minutes as an average minutes for doctor's appointment [(2)]

Tele medicine can be an alternative solution for younger people (18 – 45 years old) who used to search online for advice about their minor non-emergency condition (e.g. Headache, flu, muscular pain) and this in return will decrease the possibilities of inaccurate self-diagnosis, according to a Harvard Medical School-led report in the British Medical Journal4, the act of searching for signs

online can in many times lead to unnecessary anxiety for patients based on their inaccurate self-diagnosis.[3]

One of the important supporters for spreading the use of Telemedicine service is Insurance coverage. Having insurance coverage has a direct relationship into the willingness to use this service. This appeared clearly in increasing telemedicine adoption in the US that is driven by insurance coverage widening across the primary care market. [4]

Patient awareness still remain one of the main pillars in spreading the use of this service among the region. This reflects the adoption path in the US and UK market where the telemedicine usage curve has followed an education process with many patients initially concerned about the lack of physical examination in video consultations [5]

References

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5. ***Software Advise, 2017***