

## **REMOVING LEGAL BARRIERS FOR CROSS BORDER PRACTICE OF TELEMEDICINE WITHIN THE NORDIC REGION**

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In principle, the use of telemedicine applications knows no national borders. One of the major possibilities and advantages of modern Information and Communication Technologies in health care is that the distance between, and place of residence of, the patient and the provider is of little or no importance when it comes to transmitting health information.

In practice, however, there are several obstacles for true routine practice across national borders. Many of these obstacles have to do with the fact that different national legislations put up different kinds of barriers to protect the national health care services. These are barriers that make it difficult for personnel to provide services in other countries, for personnel to get paid for their work across national borders and to transmit necessary medical and patient information.

As an attempt to overcome these barriers, the Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine has taken an initiative to launch a joint Nordic project with participants from all Nordic countries. The project aims at identifying possible legal barriers to practicing telemedicine across national borders in the Nordic Region, and to give recommendations to governments and health authorities on how these barriers might be reduced or removed. This presentation will give an overview of the project, how it is put together, the work plan and some of the issues that are or will be dealt with.