Child Health Ecosystems

Ljubljana, 12th September 2019.

A global approach to improve the quality of life and socio economic potential the persons with (rare) disabling begins in childhood. The principles of universal data collections, have great advantages for shared and community care. Promotion of digital innovation as a tool to enhance access to healthcare, prevention, a holistic approach adopted globally would help to survey the rights of disabled children. Interoperability is the key prerequisite.

The above were topics presented by pediatricians at the 3rd International Scientific Conference HealthOnLine. An initiative of the Faculty of Health Sciences, members of the Slovenian health ecosystem HealthDay.si and of the European Connected Health Alliance (https://echalliance.com). ECHAlliance is a Global Connector, facilitating multi-stakeholder connections around ecosystems, driving sustainable change and disruption in the delivery of health and social care.

During the discussion with Gregor Cuzak, International Ecosystems Coordinator at ECHAlliance the importance of collaboration of health professionals, patient organization and IT experts was emphasized by a case of the day:

A 4 year old child was at the infection ward across the street suspected of meningitis (a serious disease needing prompt treatment). The child was referred to the children's hospital with the information: spinal tab liquor 'positive'. No explanation what positive meant or exact data on the laboratory results as for example cell count. The possibility to transfer or even look in the child data from another department does not exist. While in the old "paper time", the results would accompany the patients.

It was concluded that this is a common problem when different institutions contract software providers and don't pay enough attention to enforcing a single interoperability standard. . Pressure from the government, an actuality in the Netherlands, is needed to implement the use of international standards such as HL7 and LOINC (for laboratory results).

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