Reviewer’s report

Title: Web 2.0 systems supporting childhood chronic disease management: A general architecture compliant with the WHA eHealth resolution

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Reviewer: Cornelia Ruland

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This is an interesting paper, describing how Web 2.0 can be used to support chronic disease management and self-management and how pattern language can be used to define the core elements of such systems. It demonstrates a helpful approach to developers concerned with application development that includes a high degree of user participation while maintaining a high professional standard consistent with evidence-based guidelines etc.

However, the paper would greatly benefit from describing in more detail the participatory design process. With the strong focus on user participation, who were the patients who participated? What were their roles in the process, how were their needs and requirements elicited? What was the age group? The target group for the system are children and adolescents where there are huge variations between 7 and 16 year olds. How did the group arrive at the specifications in Figure 1?

Unfortunately I wasn’t able to access the Website with the prototype which would have helped tremendously to make a better conclusion about the “soundness” of the approach and what was potentially missing. However, I understand the research team will do an evaluation of the prototype as the next step. It says however, on page 6 that the system was introduced to patients, parents and care givers in 2006. Is it actually in use, and how is it used?

Page 5 on top it says that intensive treatment reduces long-term complications. It is not necessary the intensity of treatment, rather than its appropriateness and calibration to obtain and stable glucose control.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.