



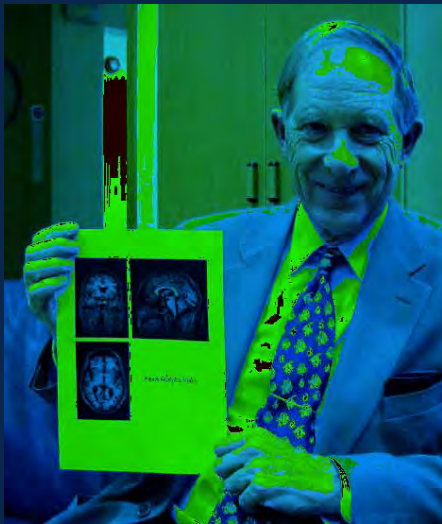
Innovative Health Technologies Programme

Information and Empowerment

Dr Simon Cohn

Jim: Well, it's not that I will do anything with it. I shall certainly take it home and keep it. But its that it shows where my schizophrenia is, so I can show people the proof.

Me: But, surely you heard them say it doesn't really show that at all. That its just part of a long-term research project.



Jim: Well, just because I don't understand all the science, and what I'm looking at, doesn't mean that it's not important to me. I may not understand it, but I can find out more, and I know then it will give me a better understanding...

Notions of the Expert Patient



From the margin to the centre
and from passive to active

From a multiplication of experts
to a techno-democracy?





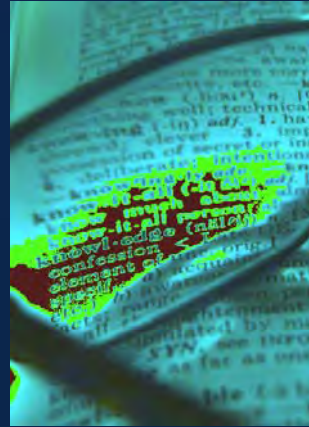
Potential for positive impacts of relevant future technological developments:

- “...Increasing responsibility of patients for their own health and health information, which will enhance their input and decision making capabilities
- Empowerment and increased autonomy for patients...”

ICT & healthcare project call for evidence
2005



more knowledge



from more technology



leads to greater patient empowerment



Self-referral



Lay-referral

Patienthood
and
Sick role





A challenge not only to what medicine is, but what it means to be a patient

Patient
reflexivity
within the idiom
of the market



The open-endedness of technology

Technologies reflect cultural values in their design
..they are not 'outside' the body since they have embedded within them normative practices, expectations, and notions of health



netdoctor

But new technologies remain open even once they are introduced. This period of instability may be short-lived as, through use, they swiftly gravitate towards a specific trajectory

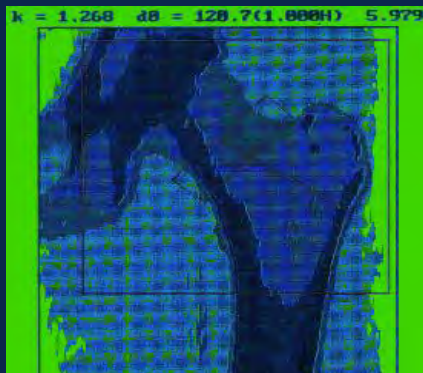
From telemedicine to telehealthcare



...The very fact that the technology, and its application, were originally pursued as being innovative appears to have been the defining characteristic of why it actually was never fully adopted in such a dramatic way.

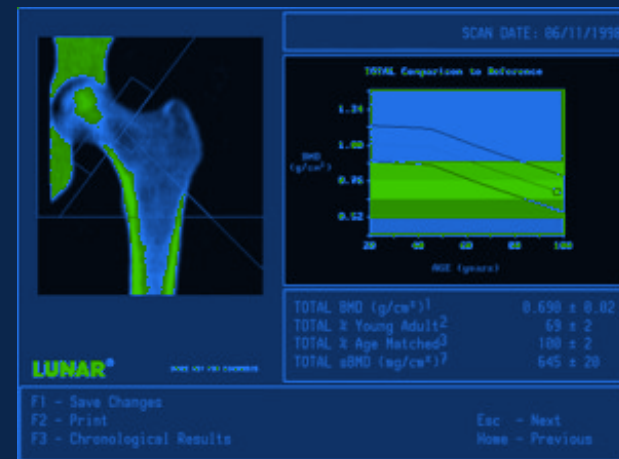


The open-endedness of the patient

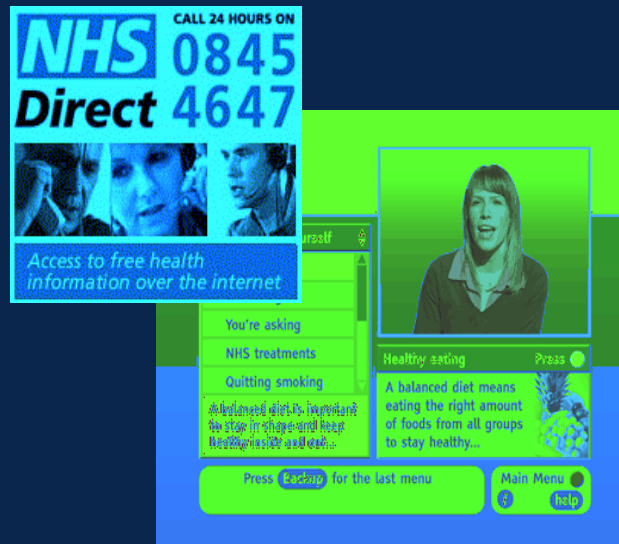
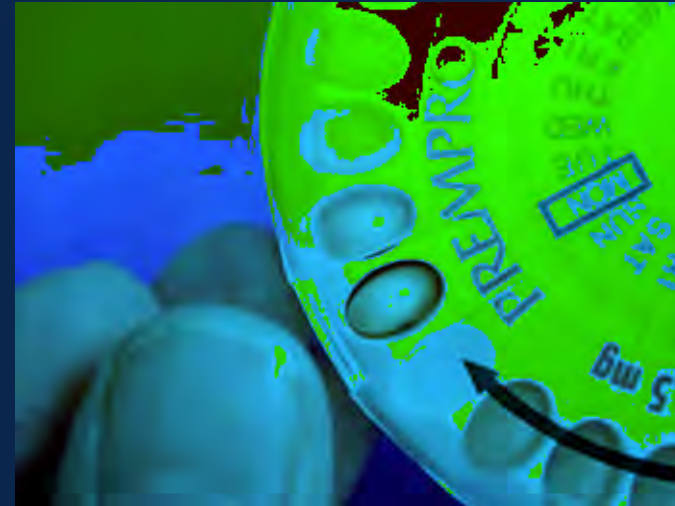


Patients do not always wish to lose the investment in the doctor as expert

the invitation for patients to redefine their role is accompanied by doubt and uncertainty being fore grounded, and this questions where risk and responsibility should be allowed to 'settle'



The evaluation of trust in order to build a sense of meaning from an abundance of information



Disparate and competing claims are judged not on internal criteria of validity, but on external circumstances by which information gets its value.

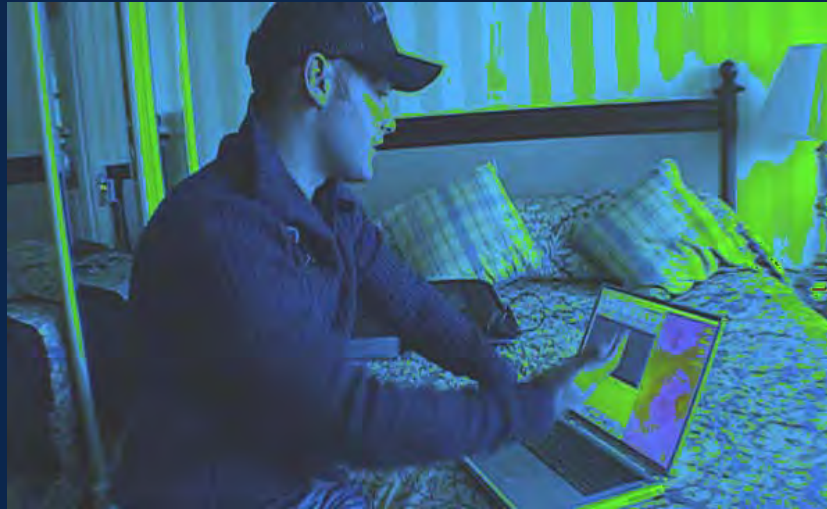
The embedded nature of information



Disembodied conceptions on the internet give the appearance that it lacks social location



But here too the social context has a dramatic effect on the processes of knowledge



Reflexivity and
decision making
both as social,
communicative
practices



Concluding remarks: New technologies require new empowerment models



we must recognise the complexity and openness of the emerging systems being generated...

...and that consequently the linear notion of information precipitating empowerment is perhaps the key hindrance to any creative use and opportunities the technology might allow.



Acknowledgements
IHT projects and collaborative writings

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<p>Dr FJ Henwood, Dr SME Wyatt & Dr A Hart</p> <p>Presenting And Interpreting Health Risks And Benefits: The Role Of The Internet</p>	<p>Dr FE Griffiths, Prof E Green, Dr GA Bendelow, Dr KC Backett-Milburn, Dr M Tsouroufli & Dr D Thompson</p> <p>IHT's At Women's Midlife: Theory And Diversity Among Women And 'Experts'</p>	<p><i>Desperately seeking certainty</i></p>
<p>Dr P Flowers, Mr JCG Imrie, Prof GJ Hart & Mr M Davis</p> <p>Transitions In HIV Management: The Role Of IHTs</p>	<p>Dr N Fox, Katie Ward & Dr A O'Rourke</p> <p>Consumerism, Information And Drug Prescribing Governance</p>	<p><i>Patient 'expertise' and IHTs</i></p>
<p>Dr S Cohn & Ms J Bichard</p> <p>The Challenge Of Recent Neurology To Conceptions Of Mental & Physical Illness/ Neuroscience Promises</p>	<p>Dr J Cullen, Dr K Ehrich, Ms J Corlyon, Ms P Slovik & Ms C Lyons</p> <p>The Role And Effectiveness Of Collaborative Knowledge Systems In Health Promotion And Health Support</p>	<p><i>Technical coding and communicative practices</i></p>