



Title	Analysis of the Current State of Telemedicine Services Focused on Assessing the Feasibility of a Telerehabilitation Program in Patients With Serious Disability of Neurological Origin
Agency	CAHTA, Catalan Agency for Health Technology Assessment Roc Boronat, 85-91 2nd floor, ES-08005 Barcelona, Spain; Tel. +34 93 551 34 87, Fax: +34 93 551 75 10; direccio@aatrm.catsalut.net , www.aatrm.net
Reference	ISBN 978-84-393-7889-1

Aim

To describe the current scenario, its feasibility of development, available solutions, and new areas that need to be developed in the field of rehabilitation, especially in the area of telerehabilitation.

Conclusions and results

This project is a starting point to illustrate the possibility of launching innovative solutions for a real problem at a sustainable cost through applying existing technological solutions. A minimal research component and a slightly larger development component will be necessary, but the workload will focus on translation and innovation. The objective is to complement existing solutions by making them adequate for the requirements of all three types of rehabilitation system users: therapists, patients, and main caregivers. If this is achieved, we await the establishment of a new service delivery channel that will help eliminate obstacles and improve access to rehabilitation services for more people at a sustainable cost.

Methods

The chapters begin with a general approach, describing the clinical problems presented by spinal cord injury and acquired brain damage. The focus is on acquired brain damage caused by trauma since it affects a young sector of the population and greatly affects cognitive functions.

We reviewed the main initiatives in our country in the setting of telemedicine and telerehabilitation. We described the main technological solutions that illustrate the technological feasibility of systems, compiled the necessary requirements for the development of telemedicine systems in the healthcare framework of rehabilitation, and proposed an assessment strategy for the systems that will be designed.

Finally, we assessed the situation of telecommunications by analyzing this situation in Cataluña, reaching the conclusion that there is a lack of information at the clinical user level.