# eHälsa inom prehospital akutsjukvård – Hur kan den utvecklas?

# eHealth in Prehospital Acute Care – What's Next?

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The number of eHealth initiatives, i.e. solutions where Information and Communication Technology (ICT) are employed to promote health or improve healthcare, is rapidly growing. Development within the eHealth sector is seen as one, in some instances even "the", way to meet tomorrow's healthcare challenges significantly characterized by an increasing number of elderly with multiple chronic diseases. This and other trends in society will propel a care that is further individualized, easier to access, and of higher quality compared to today's situation. However, even with strong support both from national and European level, the rate at which e-health solutions is introduced in everyday practice is somewhat disappointing, especially in the light of other sectors', e.g. banking and e-commerce, successful exploitation of new technology to improve and rationalize their services. The healthcare sector needs to find ways and arenas for e-health initiatives to be introduced, tested, and evaluated on a small scale in order to single out which solutions that contribute value to the healthcare system and, thus, are candidates for full scale deployment.

Prehospital acute care and especially the ambulance unit represent a well-defined part of the care chain suitable for introducing and testing new eHealth solutions. The ambulance service has shown to be an "early adopter" of ICT and telemedicine/eHealth applications. An obvious reason is that there is very much to gain from establishing communication between the ambulance unit and the rest of the healthcare system. This allows patient information and e.g. ECG signals to be transferred to improve care in the ambulance and the emergency ward/receiving clinic to be better prepared when the ambulance arrive. Future eHealth initiatives will indeed increase the diagnostic and treatment capability of the ambulance as well as support various care chains and decision making, but also focus on facilitating care in the confined space of the ambulance by adopting emerging unobtrusive and ambient technology. This presentation will discuss what we can expect in a few years time and where to go to best support the care practice of the ambulance service.