

## Increase in Telehealth Device Shipments Forecast

A new report from a UK-based market research firm on the world market for telehealth devices predicts that the use of home use medical devices will ramp up as telehealth takes off. By 2013, the combined unit shipments of home use digital blood glucose meters, blood pressure monitors, weight scales, pulse oximeters and peak flow meters used in telehealth applications will grow to over 1.6 million.

Shipments of health hubs will also increase, such that the total shipments of telehealth devices is expected to top two million by 2013. A “health hub” is used within the home to acquire vital signs measurements from devices. Health hubs can be integrated into telehealth services, communicating the readings taken by the monitoring devices to the service provider and giving users a way to tell health professionals additional information, such as how they feel, to accompany the vital signs data.

Despite being around for a number of years, home telehealth has not yet evolved into a mainstream application. While the United States has been leading the adoption of telehealth so far, some European countries have

also begun to implement telehealth projects.

Aging world populations and unhealthy modern lifestyles are significantly increasing the prevalence of hypertension. It is also a key cardiovascular risk factor. In the face of these major challenges, blood pressure monitors are being increasingly integrated as a part of telehealth packages for managing disease conditions. In 2009, nearly 50,000 blood pressure monitors were used in telehealth applications. Shipments are forecast to increase to more than half a million in 2013.

Diabetes is another common chronic condition to be monitored using telehealth. Though the number of blood glucose monitors used in telehealth applications was quite low in 2009, shipments are forecast to grow to around 300,000 in 2013.

The report is from InMedica, the medical research division of IMS Research, a supplier of market research and consultancy services on a wide range of global electronics markets headquartered in Wellingborough, UK. For information, see [www.in-medica.com](http://www.in-medica.com). ■



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