

Online Medical Consultation

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Traditional systems are sometimes interrupted during periods of unwanted crisis. Alternative systems are emerged in these circumstances. Online Medical Consultation (OMC) is indeed as an alternative system for medical science.

Online Medical Consultation is part of internet medical care, which circumvents the disadvantages of traditional ways of seeking medical care and provides patients with a convenient and affordable way of service. It also reduces the chances of spreading infectious diseases by reducing the number of patients to hospitals.

OMC is the term utilized as a part of this paper to allude to web-based remote patient-specialist (Consumer-provider) medicinal discussions.¹ With the approach of broadband and video conferencing, numerous people have swung to online web-portals to get an online consultation. Utilization of this technological innovation has numerous advantages for both the doctor as well as the patient.

The following factors which led to a sudden surge in the Online Medical Consultation are the convenience, shift in disease patterns, cost-effectiveness, privacy and second opinion.²

CONVENIENCE

In the study named, reasons for consulting a doctor on the internet: web survey of users of an ask the doctor service, it was discovered that since computers are quite common, in homes as well as in working environment, in most developed nations it is quite evident why convenience was an noteworthy factor behind participants picking up Internet consultations.³ Moreover, the asynchronous access to the Internet-based Ask the doctor service enables users to get the services at any point of the day, a component which was applauded by many of the participants. An android, iPhone and advanced mobile phones are also important options.

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A SHIFT IN DISEASE PATTERNS

There has been an increasing incidence of noncommunicable diseases all over the globe. More than 50% of our population is now on the brink of dying from heart diseases, obesity, cancer, and diabetes. There is an increase of 25 percent of these diseases per year in different parts of the world. These diseases result in significant lifestyle modifications and require very different and unique forms of treatment, care, and adherence. With an ageing population, increasing urbanization and sedentary lifestyle this situation is further going to get worse putting an enormous burden on an existing system especially in the countries with less organized health system.

The cost of treating communicable diseases in many of the cases is not high and results in one-time expenditure centered on specific incidence. However, the cost and complexity of managing chronic diseases are quite high resulting in abysmal screening and exceptionally poor adherence.

As per the virtual visits consumer choice survey, 70% of patient respondents were of the view that they were willing to utilize virtual care for various types of visit. Online drug prescription, pre-surgical consultation, some post-operative appointments, receipt of oncology results, and chronic disease management check-ins were as the most preferred virtual care types.

As consumers increasingly look forward to convenient, affordable health care—and as payers' enthusiasm in low cost access continues to grow aggressively—this survey suggests that consumers are most likely to shop for those who offer virtual visits for specialty and chronic care.

COST-EFFECTIVE

While the hospital charges you for its hygiene and maintenance, these royalty charges are not present in an e-visit since there is no infrastructure involved, cutting the cost of a consultation to much less or even half.

While an average doctor visit costs between Tk. 600 to 1000, an online consult can turn out to be very economical with costs ranging from Tk. 200 to 500.

Privacy

The confidentiality level in an encrypted conversation with an online doctor is unmatched. The hospital will