

## Future Health regions Neubrandenburg (Fontane) - Health economic consultancy and evaluation

### Summary:

Chronic heart failure is one of the most frequent diseases in developed countries. Prevalence of heart failure is estimated to be around 1-2%, annual incidence cases are around 5-10 per 1,000 persons. 371,000 patients were hospitalized because of heart failure in the year 2010, according to the Federal Statistical Office. Heart failure was therefore the most frequent reason for hospitalization. Heart failure constitutes for around 1% of all expenses in the German health care system. As the health economic relevance of heart failure is still increasing, there is a need for new therapeutic approaches. Telemedicine is the key to these new approaches. Telemedicine does not require - as opposed to face-to-face medicine - a geographical and temporal proximity between patient and health care professional. Particularly in heart failure new technologies have the potential to improve therapies. In heart failure telemedicine can be used for monitoring vital signs continuously as well as generating well-structured therapies based on networking of the respective health care professionals (GPs, cardiologists, nephrologists, diabetologists, etc.)

The primary aim of the Fontane-project is an improvement of the ambulatory care of chronic heart failure patients in a structurally weak area (Neubrandenburg) via telemedicine.

The health economic evaluation, performed by the institute of social medicine, epidemiology and health economics, will focus on the following sub questions:

What costs are associated with a telemedicine approach as compared to a conventional therapy and what is the ratio of costs and effects in case the telemedicine approach is superior to the conventional therapy? To answer these questions we plan to conduct cost- as well as cost-effectiveness analyses. A collaboration with several statutory health insurances exists to enable the inclusion of invoice data in the analysis.

---

*Principal investigator:*  
Willich, MD, MPH, MBA

*Project coordinator:*  
Reinhold, MPH

*Research associate:*

*Data management:*

*Project coordination office:*

*Project duration:*  
2012-2016

*Project status:*  
main phase

*Funding:*  
Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung  
(BMBF)

---

*Publication:*