



SOTSIAALMINISTEERIUM



10.02.2014

## **Conference: Telemedicine opportunities in primary health care**

**The conference „Connecting Health Care Professionals via ICT”, that will take place on February 14th, 2014 in Tallinn, will be looking to answer questions on how to use information technology to support quality medical care in remote areas, delivering solutions to situations where medical resources are limited.**

Experts from seven countries will present pilots and provide examples from their own experiences on how IT solutions were utilised to support the medical field.

Representing Estonia at the PrimCareIT conference, Deputy Secretary General for Health of Ministry of Social Affairs Ivi Normet, has said that telemedicine is an integral part of the overall medical progress.

„Shortage of healthcare workers is a problem both here and elsewhere. For Estonia, it is very important to use telemedicine capabilities that ensure the availability and quality of health care throughout Estonia. We very much hope that we can learn from the experiences gained from the pilot projects presented at the conference to reduce the problems in rural areas”, Ivi Normet said. Normet added that telemedicine facilities are already in use, for example, at the Digital Image Bank, delivering emergency services to the residents of the small islands and in advising the nursing brigades.

„The objective of PrimCareIT conference is to find solutions on how to deliver quality primary health care services equally to both the urban and rural doctors. Different countries talk about their experiences at the conference, how it is done via telemedicine and tele-mentoring”, explained the PrimCareIT project leader in Finland, eHealth expert and executive director from South Ostrobothnia Health Care District, Sami Perälä.