



Antigua and Barbuda



Describe a successful or challenging e-health initiative your country has taken.

Antigua and Barbuda is embarking on the implementation of a hospital information system that will be used in the Mount St. John Medical Center, a newly constructed public hospital. It will not only include electronic patient records but will also provide applications for the integration and management of the following areas:

- ✦ *Admissions, Discharges and Transfers (ADT)*
- ✦ *Hospital and Medical Service Schedule*
- ✦ *Services Work Orders*
- ✦ *Nursing Station Management*
- ✦ *Diet Management*
- ✦ *Financial Registration and Billing*
- ✦ *Physicians' Orders Management*
- ✦ *Case Management*
- ✦ *Statistics*
- ✦ *Lab System*
- ✦ *Radiology System*
- ✦ *Pharmacy System*
- ✦ *Operating Room Module*
- ✦ *Electronic Documentation Module*

Eventually this hospital information system will be linked to the district clinics and there will be reform of Antigua and Barbuda's Health Information System at the primary, secondary and tertiary health care levels. We also intend to embark on a telemedicine initiative at the new hospital.

What were the financial challenges and costs associated with implementation of this programme?

Although financing for this initiative is a challenge, the government is committed to improving health service delivery through the development of an efficient health information system. Funding for the project was therefore provided by the Mount St. John Medical Center Limited, a government owned company.

What have been the main technological challenges to implementing e-health in your country?

The main challenge is insufficient adequately trained personnel and a lack of expertise in this field. However, we have engaged the services of SabiaMed, a systems development and implementation company for health care facilities that will train personnel and guide us through this process.

Another challenge is low speed/bandwidth (dial up) internet access within the public health sector especially in the community setting. However this will be changed to broadband connection when the hospital is linked to the district clinics electronically.

Have any ethical issues been raised during the design and implementation of e-health programmes?

As we have no current e-health programmes, no ethical issues have been raised so far. However we expect security and confidential issues when we implement e-health programmes in the near future.

Has the implementation of e-health required any legal or regulatory changes?

There is currently little or no legal documentation for e-health therefore significant legislative changes will have to be made in this area.

What have been the outcomes of your e-health initiatives?

We are currently in the implementation phase of this initiative.