



TELEMEDICINE ON BOARD SHIPS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Preamble

The experimental project of Telemedicine on board ships, with the shipping company FINAVAL, is a natural evolution of the activity of remote assistance to the ships in navigation in all seas of the world developed by the CIRM (International Radio Medical Centre) since 1935. Centro Internazionale Radio Medico (C.I.R.M.) is the Italian TMAS and the medical organization with the largest experience in the world of assisting patients on board ships.

C.I.R.M., in collaboration with the shipping company FINAVAL and with Telbios, a leading organization providing Telemedical Services headquartered in Italy, is launching a research programme for validating a basic telemedicine standard for improving levels of medical assistance in case of diseases or accidents on board.

The Project

These are the purposes :

- to improve the abilities of medical assistance with the transmission of clinical data, in case of disease or accidents on board;
- to build a database of clinical data of the seafarers;

These purposes serve both to improve the possibilities of care and to protect the health of the seafarers with actions of prevention and sanitary education.

The solution involves 3 actors:

- the **naval unity** on board of which the seafarer records his own vital parameters;
- the **Service Center of Telemedicine of Telbios** that received the data and make them available online (access to the data is protected according to Privacy laws);
- the **C.I.R.M.** that considers the data and, where necessary, expresses a clinical opinion and points out the possible necessary cares.

The equipment on board foresees a medical handbag predisposed for the measurement of parameters like weight, blood glucose levels, blood pressure, the concentration of oxygen in blood, breathing rate (lung function) and the electrical activity of the heart (Electrocardiograph).

The handbag is connected with the communication system available on board; in case of necessities or following the medical protocol, the Commander will send the data to the Service Center of Telemedicine of Telbios that make them available on web for the C.I.R.M.

All the devices are easy to use and the operator is supported by guides and illustrations.

On July 29 the handbag of telemedicine has been made operational on board of the ship FINAVAL "Isola Bianca".

Present and future Goals

The goal of the project is to collect clinical data and to analyze the simple use and the functionalities of the system.

An evaluation document will report the following finalities:

1. **to determine new processes** or to improve the actual ones involving the interested institutions and corporations;
2. to determine the employment of telemedicine on board ship (**convenience and feasibility**);
3. **to determine technological solutions of telemedicine** on board ship to improve the safety and health of the seafarers;
4. to increase the potentialities of intervention of the CIRM, improving the abilities of medical assistance;
5. to publish the results at the end of the experimentation

For further information about technical details and economic conditions of adhesion to the Project please email to info@telbios.it ; ilaria.iannaccone@telbios.it .