

MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES: HOW CAN THEY IMPROVE HIV/AIDS MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT SITES?

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One of South Africa's greatest challenges lies in the provision of effective tools to manage and monitor those that are infected and affected by HIV/Aids. As patient numbers increase medical and social services care providers are becoming increasingly under resourced therefore not being able to provide adequate care. Cell-Life has been at the forefront in developing numerous innovative technologies to assist provincial and clinic staff at various levels of the management chain to cope with such challenges.

Cell-Life is a Section 21 organisation that is involved in the provision of tools used to manage and monitor those infected and affected by HIV/Aids in the public health care sector of South Africa. Challenges such as home-based carer management, supply chain management and patient record keeping are all areas in which mobile technologies can be used effectively. The objectives of the presentation are to show the various mobile solutions that Cell-Life have implemented in various settings across South Africa and show some of the key challenges, benefits and lessons learned from these experiences.

The method used includes evaluations of Cell-Life's current implementations, one such evaluation involving a project run in collaboration with the Medical Research Council. The key conclusions formed include the need for innovative solutions in remote rural areas as well as effective management solutions to bridge the digital divide and close the infrastructure gaps being conscious of the local context and the requirements of communities.

Key Words: Cell-Life, cellphone, mobile, management