

## LETTERS

## WHAT EVIDENCE FOR TELEHEALTH?

# Daily contact with a nurse may be more important than high tech telecare

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My practice took part in the trials of telehealth and telecare mentioned by McCartney,<sup>1</sup> and I too saw no hard evidence, just anecdotal evidence that weighing was useful.

However, the direct daily contact with a nurse that goes with the programme may be more important. This was not trialled separately from the telehealth part of the trial, as far as I know.

In this new world of locality driven commissioning it is interesting that central NHS policy is to drive telehealth forward even if it's not wanted at a local level.

Competing interests: NJS's primary care trust/consortium may have to buy this service even if there is no evidence for it.

1 McCartney M. Show us the evidence for telehealth. *BMJ* 2012;344:e469. (18 January.)

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