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Health impact assessment in Mongolia

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Mongolia is an Asian country, which is located between China and Russia, and lately it has become to known internationally for its enormous resources of minerals. The parliament and government of Mongolia have discussed in great details, with a high interest, the distribution of all these newly discovered wealth, yet very little attention was given to impact of mining activities on health of local community people. The Department of Health - Government Implementing Agency decision makers understood the need to address this topic and have collaborated with the Canadian researchers to develop the national guideline on HIA. The first draft document was developed in 2009 and series of meetings, workshops had resulted in amendments in Environmental Impact Assessment Law and inclusion of the word "health" in EIA. Although many public health professionals consider it as one of the biggest achievements, there are many challenges that environmental and health professionals face to find the Mongolian way of assessing the health impact. Latest training, conducted with the support of WHO, in November 2014 in Ulaanbaatar, reveled the interest of Mongolian professionals to have HE within EIA. Still challenges remain when it comes to questions, such as, who will do HIA, which tools to use, and training institution will be responsible for capacity building. Mongolia is in search for its own way to assess health impact of new projects and facing challenges to find it within current legal environment.

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Comprehensive telemedicine system for online monitoring of patients treated with high doses of radionuclide therapy

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Following radionuclide therapy, patients usually must remain hospitalized in special restricted access premises until radiation in their body drops below a certain level. During hospitalization, some of these patients can experience some complications or adverse reactions. It is of vital importance that doctor and nurse have audio-visual contact with patients, follow-up their vital functions and follow-up decline of radiation in their body during hospitalization. On the other hand, despite strict instructions given to them by physician and nurse before administration of radionuclide therapy, the patients often try to leave "restricted area". In this case we need alarming system in order to achieve prompt alarming of the personnel when such case occurs, and be able to provide adequate measures. Telemedicine approach could be very useful as solution for all these challenges. We have developed comprehensive telemedicine system which covers four important fields: continuous on-line remote monitoring of patients' vital functions registered with bed side monitor; video surveillance of area which use patients during hospitalization; continuous on-line monitoring of rest radioactivity in patients body and alarming system dedicated for case when patient attempt to leave the special restricted access premises. Our system consists of own developed hardware/software solutions for data acquisition and processing and established using Internet connection and services. We used our system for more than 500 patients who received radionuclide therapy. From our experience gained over the past 4 years, this telemonitoring system dedicated for patients receiving radionuclide therapy ensures a high level of safety for the patient and medical staff.

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