

Scaling up digital care: are hospitals ready?

Whitepaper

An investigation into the opportunities afforded by and the challenges faced when scaling up digital care in Dutch hospitals.

Drastic changes in healthcare

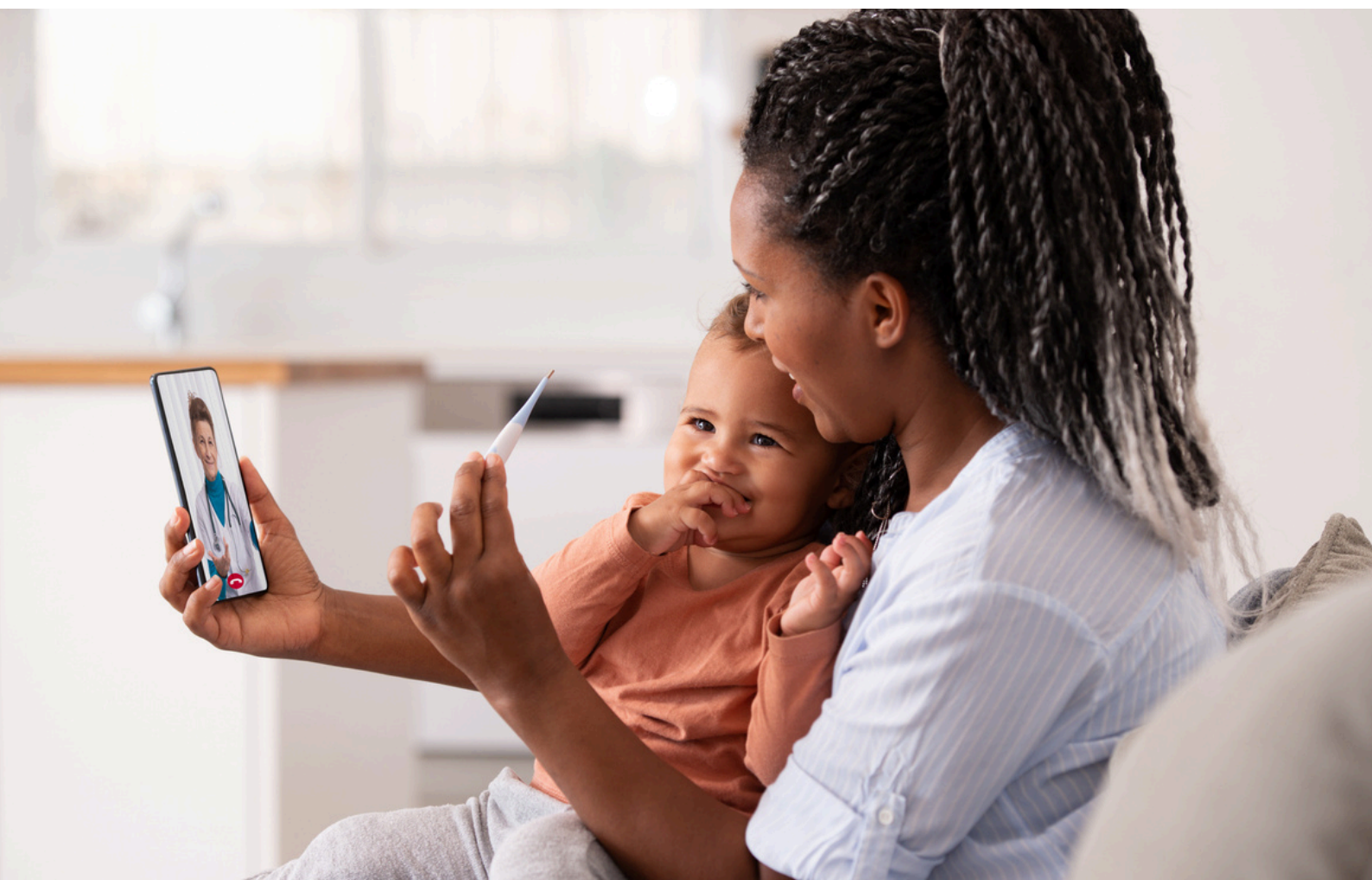
The healthcare sector is facing major changes, including an ageing population, staff shortages and a growing demand for care. Digital care provides many opportunities to address these challenges, while making healthcare more efficient and accessible at the same time. The guiding principle here is that care is provided at home as much as possible, preferably in the form of digital self-care.

This principle is endorsed by key policy documents, such as the Integrated Care Agreement (Integraal Zorgakkoord, IZA), Healthy and Active Living Agreement (Gezond en Actief Leven Akkoord, GALA) and Housing, Support and Care for the Elderly (Wonen, Ondersteuning en Zorg voor Ouderen, WOZO).

At the same time, a study by the University of Twente and Rijnstate shows that it is very important for hospitals to scale up remote care to achieve cost efficiency and thus make a solid business case (Peters et al., 2022).

Study

Enovation spoke to more than 180 stakeholders and conducted research on, among other things, opportunities, awareness among healthcare staff and obstacles to be expected when scaling up digital care within Dutch hospitals. The main aim was to provide healthcare providers, policymakers and other stakeholders involved in the digital transformation with actionable insights. In this whitepaper, you can read more about the results and what conclusions we can draw from them.



The results

Time savings are the greatest anticipated benefit

Our own research found that saving time is one of the main drivers behind scaling up digital care, especially for healthcare staff. This finding is consistent with research by the University of Twente and Rijnstate, which shows that significant time savings and cost efficiency are only achieved when digital care is implemented on a wide scale. This highlights the importance of a centralised approach to organising digital healthcare services, which requires greater capacity than individual departments can provide.

Knowledge gaps

In addition, the study found that awareness of digital care varies greatly between hospital roles. Medical professionals, especially nurses, have the least awareness, while management and board members are best informed. This highlights the need for targeted education to close knowledge gaps among medical staff.

‘More than half of hospitals face organisational and patient-related challenges.’

Each sector has its own challenges

The study also revealed that more than half of hospitals face organisational and patient-related challenges. At the same time, we saw that Top clinical services invests the most in digital care and experiences certain barriers the least.

So what is the key to a successful scale-up?

Cooperation between different departments and healthcare facilities is necessary to successfully scale-up digital care.



A centralised approach

A centralised approach is essential to avoid fragmented organisation of digital care, which would lead to inefficiencies and lost economies of scale. By setting up a central team responsible for coordinating digital care, protocols and notifications can be handled efficiently, taking pressure off individual departments.

Technological support across all departments

In addition, this centralised approach requires the right technological solutions and applications that provide support across all departments. This delivers consistency and quality, and ensures that digital healthcare services become more widely available to patients.

Training and education

Lastly, the goal is to strengthen the digital skills of medical staff through targeted education and training.



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This will allow them to make effective use of digital care and will reduce knowledge gaps between roles.

A patient-focused approach, where patients are actively involved in the design and implementation of digital healthcare services, helps to reduce barriers and tailor care to their needs more effectively.

Conclusion

Scaling up digital care in Dutch hospitals is complex and requires a centralised approach in which collaboration is of crucial importance. While a lot of progress has been made, challenges remain that require specific approaches for different types of hospitals. Overcoming barriers in scaling up digital care is essential to ensure the accessibility, efficiency and quality of care now and in the future.

With a patient-focused and strategically organised approach, Dutch hospitals can play a leading role in integrating digital care into their core business.

The results in a row

- Time savings and cost efficiency: digital care saves a significant amount of time and is very cost-efficient when implemented on a wide scale.
- Education: targeted education is needed to close knowledge gaps among medical staff, especially nurses.
- Organisational and patient-related challenges: more than half of the hospitals face organisational and patient-related challenges when scaling up digital care.
- Centralised approach: a central coordination team leads to greater efficiency and economies of scale.
- Collaboration: cooperation between departments and healthcare organisations is required to make scaling up successful.

How to proceed?

Do you work in healthcare and would you like to know more about how to scale up digital care? Enovation offers several ways to get involved (free of charge), so that you can learn more in webinars or during events, for example. Prefer personalised advice? Get in touch – we would love to talk to you!


You can find information on events and how to contact us at enovationgroup.com.

About Enovation

We believe that by working together, we can create a sustainable healthcare system, ensuring high-quality care that is accessible to everyone. Always. How? By bringing technology and healthcare together and facilitating cooperation and connections between people.

With our platform we provide the leading platform for digital care and collaboration. From early detection to remote monitoring, and everything in between, we connect the integrated healthcare network. Enovation Platform is based on secure information exchange and process support. It is seamlessly integrated in care processes and information systems and built on international standards. This is how we connect healthcare providers with one another and with patients and clients.

Would you like to know more about Enovation Platform? Go to enovationgroup.com or contact us:

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