

TELEMEDICINE



Read the article about long-distance medical treatment. Seven sentences have been removed. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which best fits each gap.

Telemedicine, the practice of medicine at a distance, began with the telephone.

(1)_____

A doctor in London can now examine a patient in the Middle East or South America. Three of the four Antarctic survey research bases now have computers, allowing transfer of medical information.

(2)_____

Although telemedicine occurs in outer space, it will also change everyday medical practice on earth. (3)_____ In addition, it can reduce the number of journeys a person might need to make a hospital for follow-up treatment and change the treatment of the elderly. (4)_____ In cases like these, telemedicine could make doctors and nurses aware of who needs help and use a "video visit" to reduce the cost of a home visit or an unnecessary trip to hospital.

Before too long you may be able to pick up the phone for a "video-conferencing call" and talk to a doctor for advice. Your spots may then be "examined" by a doctor fifty kilometers away using this video link.

Whereas most people in the developed world can easily visit a doctor or a hospital for a medical check, people in some developing countries are not so lucky.

(5)_____ For example, a young Swazi boy in South Africa suffering from an eye disease was "examined" by doctors in London who were then able to decide what kind of treatment the boy needed.

Telemedicine could also change medical education by bringing the expert skills of the world's leading specialists to students throughout the world. Students in Africa or India can now watch a surgeon performing an operation in Europe or the US. There is already a medical education link between a university in the UK and a university in the Middle East. (6)_____

Ships and off-shore installations like drilling platforms are also making increasing use of telemedicine. (7)_____ Stormy weather prevented him from being taken to the mainland, but a video discussion and examination by a doctor on land established that he was not at serious risk.

A. However, a satellite phone, a computer and some simple technology could establish a direct link between them and hospital specialists.

B. The new prescription is sent automatically to your home.

C. Today it includes video technology and high-speed communications using satellites.

D. In one recent case an oil-rig worker had a worsening headache two days after a head injury.

E. It can help reduce queues and waiting times for doctors in hospitals.

F. This means that students and teachers can share in live classes, which is a great improvement on traditional textbooks.

G. This can save lives when bad weather makes it impossible to fly home someone who is ill and needs to go to hospital.

H. Many elderly people who live alone may suddenly fall ill or have an accident at home.