

## Medical Information Centre of Tartu University Clinics as a Portal to Knowledge

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In the fast changing information society, we are all faced with ever new challenges. The Medical Information Centre can not envisage its activity separately from the development plan of Tartu University Clinics and health reform of Estonia as designed for 2001-2015.

One of the major tasks of Estonian medicine in the nearest years is regulation of the existing hospital network. The reason for placing emphasis on electronic information is not only the efficiency of its application but also the fact that in short time such information has become accessible to a wide range of users in Estonia.

Estonia has given much attention to the development of information and communication technology. The starting point in the early 90s was a virtual nil. However, today the country has attained the level of developed European countries and even surpassed some of them in several areas (Internet, including Internet banks, mobile communication, etc.).

The aim of the paper is to give an overview of the opportunities the use of which has rendered the continuously updated website of the Medical Information Centre an efficient tool for offering information resources and services to its target groups.

The paper discuss the following issues:

- analysis of the users of the Centre and their demands in the context of ordering of information sources and offering of information services
- e-library which allows to obtain a relevant information on one's desktop, about diagnoses, drug information, results of clinical trials, gene therapy and other developments
- user education as an important factor in the developing information world

The mission of Tartu University Clinics is to guarantee the continuity and development of Estonian medicine via high quality integrated treatment, teaching and research activity.

The portal of the Medical Information Centre, offering a wide range of resources and services, can be visited at the following address: <http://www.kliinikum.ee/infokeskus>