

An Adolescent Perspective: The Potential Impact of Direct Medical Blogs on Teen Healthcare

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Since the the introduction of web-based communications, online communities have evolved at an exponential rate. The latest advance has been the weblog, blog. One of the most blog-oriented groups is teens. After the introduction of blogs, online diaries, and the potential to be members of a "blogring" at blog sites such as Zenga.com, teens have effectively created an online society. It is our view that such a web/blog based community has the potential to not just act as an arena for socialization, but as a circuit for online teen-focused health care. There is definitely a need for improved teen healthcare, and it is our belief the Internet is the best venue for delivering these necessary services and blogs are the best distribution form of communication.

Despite the incredible number of teen-focused blogs, there are very few sites with any concentration about online health care. Establishment of a blog site specifically for adolescent health and part of a teen community could potentially reduce the load on hospitals and their physicians by offering blog based telemedicine as an alternative to traditional patient-doctor interactions. Blogs are cost effective, easy to learn, and easy to use, they are a perfect method of the delivery for telemedicine. In the next ten years, online blogs could create a new type of patient-doctor interaction which would, in many adolescent cases, prove to be quicker, easier, more accesible, cheaper, and altogether far more effective that the comparitively cumbersome health care systems of today.