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THE WAY TO RAPID AND ACCURATE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

– Simulation as an innovation tool



Partners in Healthcare Innovation Lab



Healthcare Innovation LAB

The Danish healthcare system is facing major challenges as regards delivering quality services to the country's citizens on time. At the same time, the number of treatments for all patient groups is growing. The increasing economic pressure is making it necessary to come up with efficient and resource-saving solutions, yet without losing the focus on patients. This requires new solution models for the way in which the healthcare sector, including the hospitals, can work innovatively in the future in close co-operation with business, researchers and patients.

What is Healthcare Innovation Lab?

Healthcare Innovation Lab is a public/private sector innovation partnership, encompassing 26 partners in a multi-disciplinary set-up, that creates a dynamic and innovative field of tension between the clinic, business, researchers, patient associations and innovators.

Through three demonstration projects (The Outpatient Clinic of the Future, Mobile Blood Testing and Telemedicine – Distance Treatment), Healthcare Innovation Lab has developed a unique set of methods that combine simulation with user-driven innovation. These methods help to create a dynamic and effective platform, where it is possible to develop and test new solutions “on site” relatively quickly.



Simulation as an innovation tool

- Simulation is a tool for performing and visualising various specific scenarios – both actual and imagined.
- Simulation increases the transparency of both the working and the thought processes, providing all parties with a clearer picture of the relevant conditions.
- Simulation makes it possible to see processes. It promotes dialogue about innovation in situations where there are significant barriers to development and implementation. If there is something we do not know, simulation is a good tool for providing clarification.
- Using simulation, myths can be exploded and we can focus on facts.
- Simulation helps to increase the level of clarification. We are compelled to perform work processes with the solutions we have in mind.

What will Healthcare Innovation Lab offer in the future?

Simulation as a user-driven method/innovation tool

- On a small, medium or large scale
- Within or close to the clinic

Rapid innovation process (from 7 days to 3 months, or a compressed process of 3 activities, each of 3 hours)

- From brainstorming to prototype/mock-up, including development and testing

Development within the following areas:

- New products (medicine, IT, construction, layout, etc.)
- New services (Facility Services, patient-oriented services, etc.)
- New work processes and organisational forms
- Integrated patient courses that also involve the primary sector
- Other problems

Development closely connected to the clinic and to the correct technical staff

Matchmaking between clinicians, business and researchers

Healthcare Innovation Lab’s vision is for the developed methods to be used actively by the Healthcare Innovation Centre and partners in the project, with the aim of resolving future challenges in the healthcare system after the formal conclusion of the current project in January 2012.



The potential for using simulation in Healthcare Innovation Lab is enormous. This method is extremely useful and has considerable potential for developing ideas and securing ownership for the users – ideas we cannot bring to fruition simply in our imagination, but actually have to try out in practice.

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