



VODAFONE OMNITEL, PIEDMONT REGIONAL AUTHORITY AND THE TRAUMATOLOGICAL AND ORTHOPAEDIC CENTRE (CTO) AND EMERGENCY CALL CENTRE (118) OF TURIN: THE FIRST “TELEHOSPITAL” IS LAUNCHED

*Intelligent alerting, data transmission from mobile devices
and access to information and pictures on the move*

Turin, March 3, 2003: Vodafone Omnitel, the Piedmont Region, the CTO of Turin and the 118 emergency call centre for the Province of Turin announce the launch of the operating phase of the first **Telehospital**.

This project, carried out with the collaboration of Regola (a company specialised in the development of IT projects) and in consultation with Turin Polytechnic'S Department of Automation and Computer Science, is the only service of its kind which aims to provide rapid and effective preliminary diagnosis using applications that are normally used for mobile phones.

Thanks to this initiative it is possible to alert emergency teams via SMS messages (and therefore more quickly), receive and send information, medical data and images via mobile phone to provide tools and hospital back-up to ambulance teams.

The project has the following characteristics:

Intelligent alerting: Persons on call and all authorised workers who are equipped with a mobile phone and involved in managing first aid healthcare services may be alerted in case of emergency via an SMS message. The database is managed by intranet from the 118 emergency call centre and CTO wards, which guarantees prompt action (a single message advises all team members on call) and legibility (compared with pagers, which only show the caller's number).

Data transmission: The capacity to transmit data via mobile phone, such as read-outs from defibrillators and electrocardiograms on board ambulances, to the emergency call centre, thus enabling more accurate diagnosis of a patient's condition by CTO cardiologists. This allows for useful information to be provided to the medical and paramedical staff on board the ambulance and to better establish the location to which the patient should be brought and the method of reception.

Access to information via WAP (Wireless Application Protocol): Authorised healthcare workers can access the CTO's WAP service with a password that enables consultation of the CTO/118 emergency call centre's Pharmaceutical Reference Guide or useful information on the active principles of drugs. Reading of digitalized medical records will also be available soon.

Distribution of data and images on the move: All doctors equipped with a GPRS palmtop computer can log on to the CTO's image database to consult diagnostic images (e.g. X-rays) created and filed via the hospital's intranet.