Introduction of tele-ultrasonography on the island of Belle Isle
Feedback June 2016
Operational structure of the facility

- **Licensed capacity**
  - 12 beds in medical unit
  - 15 beds for follow-up and rehabilitation care
  - 15 beds for long-term care
  - 72 spaces for nursing home care (permanent lodging)
  - 41 spaces for home health services (6 of which on the island of Hoëdic)
  - 66 spaces for adults with severe physical or mental disabilities

- **Additional services**
  - 4 spaces for renal ultrasound and dialysis
  - Walk-in care clinic
  - Meal preparation and home delivery
On-call medical coverage
Continuity of care

- Added 7 general practitioners in 3 years
- Created a central healthcare "hub"
- 7 practitioners working as a team through networking
- Close collaboration between the town and the hospital
- Continuous access to unscheduled healthcare services
- Emergency house calls

Continuous access to treatment

- 1 firefighter-physician
- 3 hospital-based EMS physicians
- Medical presence doubled over weekends and summer holiday period
- One summer triage nurse for walk-in patients
- Clear EMS process and sharing of protocols
Imaging on Belle Isle before...
Then, for a few months...
Considerations prior to the change

- Ensure proper healthcare is attainable at the local level
  - *Expand advanced consultations*
- Continue to offer imaging services in collaboration with the Quiberon center
  - *Shared investment and partnership*
- Reduce the number of medical transports and transfers
  - One Belle Isle/Quiberon transfer: €400
  - Needs: 4 ultrasounds prescribed or ability to be prescribed by physicians per day (minimum)
Now: tele-ultrasound imaging

Belle Isle hospital

Lease financing €3200 per month

Imaging center in Quiberon

License fees for procedures performed
Initial findings

- Satisfied users: telephone survey
  - "I was able to get an appointment very fast"
  - "I was able to talk to Dr. Benoit, even though he was far away"
  - "It saved me time ... before, I had to go to the mainland"
  - "It's not stressful at all!"

- Satisfied general practitioners
  - Rapid diagnoses
  - "More comfortable" writing prescriptions
Initial findings

• **Gradual** ramp up
  • Need to stabilize the network
  • Technician started working in March, four days a week
  • Usage is increasing

• Some preliminary figures: **141 ultrasounds in 3 months**
  • 79 pelvic/abdominal ultrasounds
  • 6 abdominal ultrasounds
  • 23 thyroid and neck ultrasounds
  • 2 breast ultrasounds
  • 31 soft tissue ultrasounds (shoulders, feet, biceps)

• Possible use for Ob/Gyns

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