UNIQUE IN THE NETHERLANDS: LEARNING IN HEALTHCARE BY MEANS OF GAMES AND SIMULATIONS.

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Summary:
Since 2001 the University Medical Center Groningen facilitates e-learning for Dutch health care workers. This year the first edition of the Internet Learning Portal was opened. In the near future employees of healthcare institutions will have the opportunity to learn for example to deal with aggression and dementia, by gaming via the Internet Learning Portal.

Abstract:
E-Learning was started at the University Medical Center Groningen in 2001. The hospital provided at first digital training of protocols and reserved procedures via its Intranet. Now the Skillscenter has simulation facilities to assess skills of nurses in a patient environment.

At present healthcare workers in the Netherlands can find their way to e-learning by using the Internet Learning Portal www.wenckebachinstituut.nl, here they can find training programmes embedded in the Blackboard electronic learning environment.

Research demonstrates that in comparison with conventional assessment of skills digital training and assessment saves time, reduces workload and increases patient comfort.

In the near future employees of three healthcare institutions in the Netherlands will do some of their training on the computer by means of games and simulations. Aim is a better understanding of implication of legislation on their everyday handling. The project called "Gaming in Healthcare" has received an European subsidy (IAG) from the Province of Groningen to establish a new innovative approach towards training in healthcare. During the project ten groups of students will be developed, combining several computer games and simulations. Participants find themselves in a simulated environment, resembling their work life.

By entering buildings, encountering unexpected situations and carrying out various assignments on the way, participants are interactively guided through the learning material.

Access and more information is available at; www.edugidz.nl

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1 A ‘reserved procedure’ are specified procedures in the Dutch Individual health care professions Act and are procedures that entail a considerable risk to the health of the patient if performed by people that are not qualified