Rural mobile phone coverage & the NHS

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1) The potential

2) The problem

3) The solution(s)?
The potential

- Emergency calls
- Reference
- Compliance
- Photos
- Video - telemedicine
- Apps
- Cloud
Potential / apps

1) Medicine
   iResus / SIGN / NICE /
   Medcalc / Paeds ED
   EMRS

   • Governance gap?
Potential / apps (2)

2) Transport / Weather
   CalMac / ScotTraffic / RAC / GPS /
   Met Office / AeroWeather

3) Science / Ref.
   Multiconvert / iFormulas / Constants

4) News, BBC, STV, Scottish Govt.
The problem

• Simple survey
• 34 / 66 sites
  no ‘good’ coverage
• Including 5
  community hospitals

• Rural digital divide
Problems (2)

• Workrounds
  o Multiple mobiles
  o Pagers
  o Non-UK tariffs

• Costs!
Solutions (1)

• Short term
• WiFi
• + signal boosters
• to all NHS premises
Solutions (2)

- Mid-range
- Roaming

UK Key personnel / rural

Non-UK tariffs – national deal?
Solutions (3)

- Long-term
  - Incentivise rural cover
  - Reward networks with rural cover
  - Reduced fees for reduced service?
  - Subsidised satellite phone?
Solutions (4)

• And even longer....

• Notspot coverage

• Threshold?

• France / Norway
The bigger picture?

- NHS should argue for improved rural coverage!
- Rural coverage is a contract factor
- We can and must do better!
It’s not just the NHS….

• Transport
• Education
• Tourism
• Business
• Services
## UK mobile coverage 2011

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Summary

- Rural areas have greatest potential benefit
- Rural digital divide
- Solutions exist........
  .....the NHS should push for them!