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## **KNOWMOBILE - Exploring the potential of handheld devices in learning situations**

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**Abstract**

KNOWMOBILE is an exploratory research project. In this report we explore critical aspects related to the use of handheld devices in practical learning situations. Medical students' use of ICT in dispersed learning situations during their assignment to the primary health care sector constitutes the focus of our empirical analyses. One major aspect of the students learning activities are especially in focus; how they *acquire information* in their training practice with patients. Three use situations form the background of our study: when the student is working in the general practitioner's office, when the student is working in the hospital, and when the student is at home or traveling between home and work. Our undertaking is to focus on *exploring the potential of handheld devices in practical learning situations*. A distinctive finding of the empirical study is that the students' use of the handheld devices is low, especially when placed in the general practitioners offices. The students' utilization of the technology was found to be higher during their hospital practice. Electronic versions of medical reference books and procedure guides were the most used PDA-applications in this setting. Based on a social-cultural perspective on learning and on our empirical findings, we discuss crucial pedagogical, technological and organizational aspects related to the use of handheld devices in learning situations.

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