Why CloudMD Foundation?

The Problem Statement: State of healthcare in developing countries

In recent decades, the world's most distressed areas have seen modest and gradual improvements in their basic healthcare infrastructure and corresponding services. Several organizations have provided the much needed funding and resources to establish clinics and medical personnel in places including Bangladesh, India, Guatemala, Nigeria, Brazil and more. These clinics provide critical care and services to people living in hard to reach underserved areas, which have seen gradual improvements in their basic healthcare. However, although initiatives have helped stem some of the critical healthcare deficiencies in these underserved regions, there is more to be done. A typical physician working in an underserved area clinic is likely to see upward of 50 patients with a wide array of ailments and conditions in a single day. While a large number of these patients receive some effective treatment measures as a consequence of routine health issues, many patients (up to 30%) require some level of additional intervention and invasive treatment, necessitating specialist care. Specialists are needed to aid in diagnosing critical health issues or conditions, and in turn, guiding the onsite physician to select a specific course of action that will drive better outcomes for more patients.

Our mission:

CloudMD Foundation is a not-for-profit that aims to leverage the existing ecosystem to connect local in-country physicians with remote volunteer specialists to dramatically elevate the quality of healthcare provided to individuals in underserved areas.

How does CloudMD work?

Organizations such as Distressed Children International and Doctors Without Borders continue to invest in establishing clinics with nurse practitioners or sometimes, leverage local doctors in underserved areas. While these care givers are effective in dealing with routine issues, the convergence of several technologies can dramatically improve patient care, especially with regard to Electronic Medical Records and accessibility to medical specialists. CloudMD aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of the existing ecosystem via the enablement of technology in three fundamental ways:

1. EMR for Everyone: Our first objective is to replace the current manual patient record system with a full Electronic Medical Record system. By capturing patient data from multiple visits, over several years, we can improve patient care and remediate the challenge around turnover in local care providers. CloudMD provides a system where patient history can be captured in a secure database, factored into future care, and most importantly readily shared with remote physician specialists that can provide expertise. By sharing the medical records, test results, and video examinations, the local physician will have the ability to administer the best possible care.
2. Ecosystem Enrollment Platform: CloudMD will enroll a volunteer specialist to donate 1 hour a week in providing remote online assistance to local in-country physician. Most physicians are willing to help and donate the time under the right conditions – flexible schedules and the availability of tools to enable easy participation.
3. Physician Collaboration Platform: The CloudMD system will allow remote specialist physicians to schedule their availability. The system will match generalists' critical need with specialists' availabilities.

Additionally, the system will schedule an online video conference where a specialist can review the medical history of the patient, ask pertinent questions, recommend a diagnosis, and provide treatment options and follow-up care strategies.

How can you help?

CloudMD Foundation goes live in Bangladesh in Dec 2014 with future projects on Guatemala, India, Nigeria and Brazil. We are actively looking to sign up volunteers, especially specialist physicians. You can help and participate at **www.CloudMDFoundation.org.**