

**Katherine TODRYS – Patricia MECHAEL**

***The Ethics of Telemedicine in Africa  
The Millennium Villages Project Experience***

The Millennium Villages Project (“MVP”) operates in villages throughout Africa at the community level, implementing research-based best practices in agriculture, health, water, gender equity, and education to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals. In the villages in which MVP works, clinicians and community health workers are being hired to provide primary health care services at the clinical and community levels. MVP, through its mHealth activities and in partnership with Ericsson and Sony Ericsson, is strategically integrating mobile phone technology to enhance the provision of health care services. The use of mobile phones to deliver medical care to patients either through direct consultations or through call-in centers that provide medical guidance to local providers raises critical ethical and legal questions.

This paper explores the ethical and legal implications of mobile telemedicine and provides recommendations for practitioners considering telemedicine in low-resource international settings based on the MVP experience. Reviewing international and national laws and policies and professional association codes, this paper raises the issues of the ethical limits on the extent to which services may be offered via telemedicine, cross-jurisdictional licensing requirements, responsibility for patient consent and confidentiality, and implications for provider liability.

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