mHealth
in Sexual and Reproductive Health research

Dr Heli Bathija
Director,
Knowledge Management and Sharing
Outline of presentation

1. What is mHealth and why we should be excited about it?
2. How can mHealth serve you in research?
3. What difficulties have you seen in health research?
4. Data collection using mobile phones:
   a. why? - reliability of data, possible mistakes in transcribing, big volumes of paper, speed, analysis
   b. how?
      i. Magpi
      ii. CommCare/Dimagi
5. How you can learn more?
Definition of mobile health or mHealth

Medical and public health practice supported by mobile devices, such as mobile phones, patient monitoring devices, tablets, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and other wireless devices.
10 Signal mHealth Functions

1. Registration & vital events tracking
2. Electronic health records
3. Scheduling & reminders
4. Decision support
5. Client education & behaviour change communication (BCC)
6. Provider training
7. Commodity and human resource management
8. Health financing
9. Communication
10. Real-time indicator reporting
What can Magpi do?

www.magpi.com

• Magpi makes it very easy and inexpensive to collect data
• using phones and tablets
• instead of paper forms.
• You can create and configure electronic forms on Magpi.
• Your respondents fill out the forms by SMS or through an app.
• Magpi stores, analyzes,
and presents this data in several formats.
Why Magpi?

• "The Gmail of Data Collection"
• cloud-based - no consultants
• no training - no programmers.
• Magpi has the absolute lowest average total operating cost of any mobile data system
Billions of connected potential data collectors
Magpi empowers those data collectors
Important things to keep in mind when creating forms or collecting data in the field

• Test the form
• Test the hardware (longer forms need more memory)
• Allow adequate time to register all users (days)
• Allow adequate time to train your field team (5 days minimum)
• Plan for connectivity problems (data stays on phone)
• Tell support@datadyne.org quickly about any problem
Magpi introductory video about how to create forms
(15 min 33 sec)

http://vimeo.com/channels/datadyne/58915809
What can CommCare do for you?

http://www.commcarehq.org/tour/adm/

Go paperless with mobile data collection. CommCare Mobile sends data over standard phone networks for inspection on the web in real-time. With complex form logic and data validation, CommCare supports a variety of projects, from simple surveys to complex counseling forms.
What can CommCare do for you?

http://www.commcarehq.org/tour/adm/

Active Data Management

Active Data Management, a new service from Dimagi, enables programs with mobile workforces to access, interpret, follow-up, and track actions taken on their CommCare project data.
What can CommCare do for you?

DiMagiCommCareBeginnertutorial.pdf
(available from GFMER)
International mHealth Working group: High-impact practices:

- http://www.mhealthworkinggroup.org

Evidence:
http://www.mhealthevidence.org/
To join the mHealth Working Group listserv:
http://knowledge-gateway.org/mhealth

MHealth Toolkit:
http://www.k4health.org/toolkits/mhealth
GFMER mHealth course
4 March to 22 April 2013

www.gfmer.ch/mhealth

Next course
February-March 2014
Thank you!
Merci!
Kiitos!

heli.bathija@gfmer.org