E-Health Communities and Online Self-Help Groups: Applications and Usage

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E-health communities, also called Web-based health communities, have become popular arenas for support and sharing of experience, knowledge and advice among patients and citizens. E-health communities are used on a day-to-day basis by people who help each other cope with different health conditions and learn together about health-related issues and behaviors.

E-Health Communities and Online Self-Help Groups: Applications and Usage will aim to provide relevant theoretical frameworks and the latest empirical research findings in the area. It aims to increase knowledge and understanding of applications and usage of e-health communities for self-help groups who struggle with health disorders, disabilities, lifestyle issues and other health concerns. Different e-health community settings will be presented, observations of community usage and effects discussed, and complementing ways to measure effectiveness will be introduced and analyzed.

Topics Covered:

- Conversion Analysis Methods
- E-Health Communities and Trust
- E-Health Communities and Coping
- E-Health Communities on Health Disorders
- E-Health Communities on Lifestyle Issues
- E-Health Communities, Knowledge and Learning
- E-Health Community Usage
- Evaluation Methods and Measurements
- Flexible and User-Oriented E-Health Communities
- Impact of E-Health Communities

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Åsa Smedberg is a Senior Lecturer, Researcher and Director of PhD studies at the Department of Computer and Systems Sciences (DSV), Stockholm University, Sweden. She holds a PhD degree in Computer and Systems Sciences. Her research interests include Web-based communities and the use of ICT for continuous learning, with a focus on practical applications in the health area. She runs research in the field of web-based health communities for self-help groups. Over the years, in-depth studies have been carried out of online conversations in e-health communities. She is the author of a series of international publications, member of editorial review board of international journals and committee member of e-health conferences.