

NAVIGATING THE FUTURE: A COMPREHENSIVE TOOLKIT FOR TELEHEALTH REIMBURSEMENT IN THE POST-COVID ERA

Pierlus Stewart, MHA

University of South Carolina Health Services Policy & Management

Preceptor: Kathy Schwarting, MHA

Advisor: Dr. Bankole Olatosi



AGENDA

- Introduction
- Problem Statement
- Objectives/Deliverables
- Background
- Results
- Discussion



ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality = AHRQ
- American Medical Association = AMA
- Center for Connected Health Policy = CCHP
- Current Procedural Terminology = CPT Code
- South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare = SCCRPH
- Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System = HCPCS Code
- Health Resources & Services Administration = HRSA
- Medically Underserved Areas = MUA
- Palmetto Care Connections = PCC
- Public Health Emergency = PHE
- South Carolina BlueCross BlueShield = SCBCBS or BCBS
- South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare = SCCRPH
- South Carolina Telehealth Alliance = SCTA
- **Coverage/Service Parity** = Telehealth services should have the same coverage as in-person services, but payment rates may not be equal.
- Payment Parity = Payors must reimburse telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services.



INTRODUCTION

Palmetto Care Connections (PCC) is a non-profit organization founded in 2010, with a mission to bring technology, broadband, and telehealth solutions to healthcare providers operating in rural and underserved areas of South Carolina. Since 2013, the organization has helped providers save over \$111 million in broadband costs.

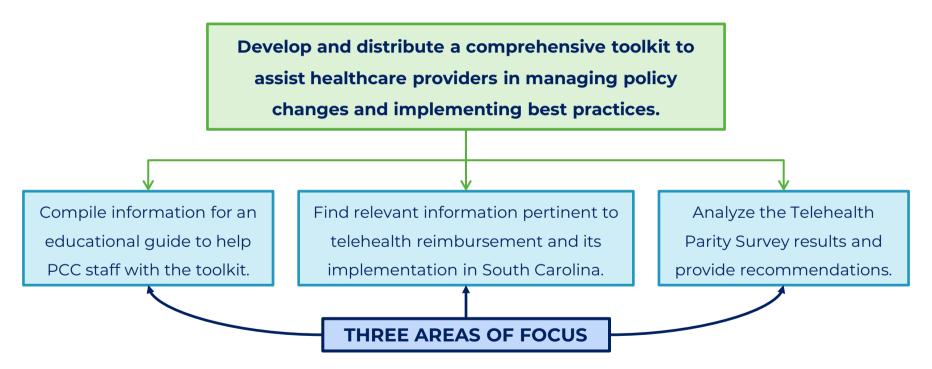


PROBLEM STATEMENT

Healthcare professionals in South Carolina are facing uncertainty and confusion about the future of telehealth reimbursement. Rapid changes in the healthcare landscape have made it difficult for providers and administration to know what to expect. Inconsistencies and constantly changing telehealth regulations can result in negative consequences and hinder acceptance from healthcare professionals. The repeal of telehealth services may worsen obstacles faced by patients, causing reduced utilization and inferior outcomes. A consistently updated centralized source of information is needed to improve understanding and clarity surrounding telehealth reimbursement in South Carolina.



OBJECTIVES

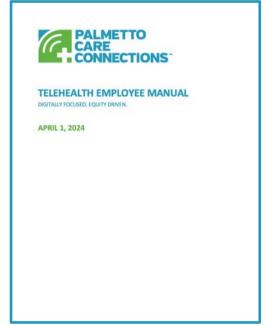




DELIVERABLES



MARCH 24, 2024



Includes CPT/HCPCS Codes for telehealth reimbursements and resources for policy revisions, utilization strategies, and implementation procedures.

Contains contact information and sources for telehealth policy updates and literature.

Telehealth Parity Survey Results Analysis
Characteristics
Confidence
Barriers
Deterents
Reimbursement
Payment
Parity
Other Comments





 Telehealth has rapidly evolved due to COVID-19. In the first three months of the pandemic, over 36 million privately paying adults used telehealth

Telehealth faces obstacles to adoption:

- Technological limitations
- PHE ended on May 11, 2023, and temporary telehealth policies will end on December 31, 2024.
- Stakeholder Resistance









tps://medlinkstaffing.com/store-and-forward-in-telehealth-a-model-for-success/(Store-and-Forward-in-telehealth-a-model-for-success/(Store-and-Forward-in-telehealth-and-in-telehealth-and-in-telehealth-and-in-telehealth/(in-telehealth/in-telehealth-and-in-telehealth/in-telehealth-and-in-telehealth-and-in-telehealth/in-tel



BACKGROUND



Source: https://chahealthcare.com/bloa/telehealth-rules-regulations

SOUTH CAROLINA'S LACK OF PAYMENT PARITY LAWS COULD HARM VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES.

- South Carolina is 1 of 7 States without Telehealth Parity laws.
- Medicaid is evaluating telehealth policies.
- In parity states, non-Hispanic
 White adults have a 24% higher
 likelihood of telehealth
 utilization, while Black adults
 have a 31% higher likelihood
 compared to those in non-parity
 states.





BACKGROUND

The RHC Program was Created to Improve Rural Physician Services for Medicare and Medicaid Beneficiaries.

- Telehealth helps rural areas by providing healthcare services, reducing transportation issues, improving monitoring and communication, and lowering costs.
- A survey conducted in July 2020 found that 29.9% of rural health centers completed more than 30% of their visits via telehealth.
- Only 12% of doctors work in rural communities, with up to 61% of "health professional shortage areas" in rural regions.





BACKGROUND

What Does This All Mean?

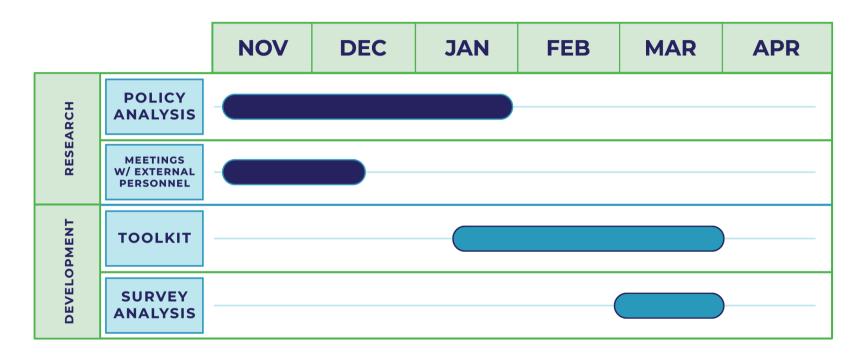
- The Post-Covid Era means regulations have shifted back to "normalcy," and reimbursement policies for telehealth have been scaled back at national and state levels.
- Need to Improve the understanding of telehealth reimbursement and utilization for healthcare providers and administrative staff

Advocacy

- The AMA advocates for some form of telehealth parity for all clinical services.
- Payment fairness and consistency should apply to all service delivery methods, including audio-only, audio-video, and in-person.



METHODS: TIMELINE





METHODS

Toolkit Development

- Utilized the Telehealth Payer Scorecard provided by PCC to create a basis
- Compiled each set of codes into the respective Excel tab: Payer Scorecard, Medicaid, Medicare, SCBCBS, UnitedHealthcare
- AMA Model: Types of telehealth services, efficient workflows for clinicians, and key regulations/policies.

CCHP Telehealth is centered around four basic questions:

- What specific services are eligible for reimbursement?
- Who can be reimbursed for example, physicians, therapists, nurses?
- Where can the patient be when receiving services?
- How is the service being delivered? Which modality is it?



METHODS

Survey Analysis

- PCC conducted a Telehealth Parity Survey to better understand the state of Telehealth Parity and stakeholders' views in South Carolina.
- The survey involved 324 participants and was aimed at clinical and non-clinical stakeholders.
- The data collected was analyzed by comparing the participants' responses.









Utilization Strategies

Types of Services

Live Video (Synchronous)

Live telehealth service is a type of communication that occurs in real-time between a person and a healthcare provider using audiovisual telecommunications technology. This two-way interaction can be used to replace in-person consultations, as well as for diagnostics and treatments.

Store-and-Forward (Asynchronous)

Patients can use a form of telehealth to send medical information from a different location. This enables them to share their details with healthcare providers and specialists without having to attend an in-person appointment. However, South Carolina Medicaid does not reimburse storeand-forward telehealth as the beneficiary must be present and actively participating during the consultation. Instead, the state provides reimbursement for Communication Technology-Based Services (CTBS), CTBS is a health service that uses telehealth technologies and includes remote patient monitoring and interpreting diagnostic tests. Notably, Medicare does not classify CTBS as telehealth services.

Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM)

RPM (Remote Patient Monitoring) is a method that can be used to collect various health data, including vital signs, weight, and blood pressure from the point of care. An individual's personal health and medical information can be gathered at one location and sent to a healthcare provider in a different location through electronic communication technologies for care and support purposes.

Mobile Health (mHealth)

mHealth is the utilization of mobile communication devices such as cell phones, tablet computers, and PDAs has become increasingly prevalent in supporting healthcare and public health practice and education. From sending out targeted text messages to promote healthy behavior to disseminating wide-scale alerts about disease outbreaks, mHealth is a relatively new and rapidly evolving aspect of technology-enabled healthcare. Typically, dedicated apps are downloaded onto patient devices to facilitate mHealth.

Implementation Guide Steps to Implement Telehealth Services Seven-Step Guide to Implement and Optimize Telehealth in Your Practice: 1) Create a Strategic Plan 2) Decide Which Types of Telehealth Services to Offer 3) Choose the Best Telehealth Platform for Your Practice 4) Understand Relevant Telehealth Laws and Policies 5) Develop Team-Based Telehealth Workflows 6) Conduct a telehealth visit 7) Assess and Optimize 1. Create a Strategic Plan As a small practice, particularly serving rural and low-income communities, it is imperative to develop a strategic plan. The success of your implementation will require an understanding of both the clinical and non-clinical aspects of care delivery. When developing your strategic plan, here is a list of stakeholders that should be in the process (if applicable): Providers · Administrative Managers Clinical Support Staff (Nurses, Medical Assistants, etc.) IT Staff · Billing, Legal, Compliance Staff Risk Management Registration Staff Marketing It is crucial to focus on critical components of telehealth operations when developing your strategic plan. The support of staff tasked with the transformation can determine the difference between success and failure.

Name(s):	a clinician champion	
Identify a	an administrative champion	
Name(s):		
	Determine the objectives for in- corporating telehealth into your practice.	Improve access Maintain continuity of care Increase market share Improve outcomes Reduce infectious disease exposures Other:
	Decide on the kinds of services to provide (refer to STEP 2).	Live Video (Synchronous) Store-and-Forward (Asynchronous) Remote patient monitoring (RPM)
	Determine the locations where telehealth will be utilized by doctors.	Home Office or clinic Distant sites or facilities (FQHC and RHC provider are eligible to serve as consulting site)
	Think about the locations where telehealth could be utilized by patients.	Home School Nursing or long-term care facilities In the state where physician practices Outside of the state where physician practices (separate licensing may be required)
	Identify a potential telehealth platform (Refer to STEP 3)	Electronic health record (EHR)-integrated platform Stand-alone platform
	Decide on the team-based telehealth model (refer to STEP 4).	Synchronous real-time support Asynchronous support



RESULTS: PROVIDER MANUAL (PART TWO)

Last Updated: 1/22/2024	SC Payer Telehealth Coverage Scorecard			
Coverage Priority	Medicare (incl. FFS, MAPD)	SC Medicaid	BCBS SC (incl. BlueChoice HealthPlan of SC)	UnitedHealth
Priority 1: Removal of originating Site Restrictions	•	•	•	•
riority 2: Provider Types (Overall Score)	•	0	0	
a: Mental Health	•	0	0	
b: Registered Dieticians	•	0	•	
e: Speech Therapists	•	0		
d: Occupational Therapists	•	•		
e: Physical Therapists	•	0	0	
f: Audiologists	•	•	•	•
riority 3: FQHCs and RHCs as distant sites	•	0		
riority 4: Virtual check-ins	•	•	•	
riority 5: Audio-only telehealth	•	•	•	0
riority 6: Chronic care RPM	•	•	•	•
riority 7: Interprofessional internet consultation (eConsult)	•	0	•	
riority 8: Behavioral Health Integration (including CoCM)		•		•



before 12/31/24, or, only certain services or provider types are allowed (not fully allowable) Red - Provider type or service is not covered

Telehealth Payer Scorecard



RESULTS: PROVIDER MANUAL (PART THREE)

FQHC and RHC providers are eligible to serve as consulting site (also called distant site) providers for telehealth services under current Medicaid Policy.

Procedure Code		Procedure Short Description	Provider Type Allowed		
			Nurse Midwife		
			Ambulance		
			Nurse Practitioner		
			PA (Physician Assistant)		
		SCDMH			
90791		PSYCH DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATION	Provider Type Allowed		
90/91		PSICH DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATION	General Practice		
			Radiology		
			Physician PRTF		
			Affordable Care Act		
			Neonatology		
			OB (Obstetrics/Gynecology)		
			PA (Physician Assistant)	The state of the s	
			SCDMH		
			Provider Type Allowed		
			Nurse Midwife		
			Nurse Practitioner		
90792		PSYCH DIAG EVAL W/MED SRVCS	General Practice		
			Radiology		
			Physician PRTF		
			Affordable Care Act		
			Neonatology		
			OB (Obstetrics/Gynecology)		
			Nurse Midwife		
			Nurse Practitioner		
			SCDMH		
			PA (Physician Assistant)		
90832		PSYTX W PT 30 MINUTES	General Practice		
90832		PSTIA W PI SO WINOTES	Radiology		
			Physician PRTF		
			Affordable Care Act		
			Neonatology		
			OB (Obstetrics/Gynecology)		
Payer	Scorecard	Medicaid - UPDATED 1-8-24	Medicare - UPDATED 1-8-24	BCBS -	

Payment available for all health care professionals who are eligible to bill Medicare for professional services

The COVID-19 PHE ended on May 11, 2023. However, these flexibilities have been extended through December 31, 2024.

Procedure Code (HCPCS)	Procedure Short Description	Can Audio-Only Interaction Meet to Requirements?
0362T	Bhv id suprt assmt ea 15 min	No
0373T	Adapt bhv tx ea 15 min	No
0591T	Hlth&wb coaching indiv 1st	Yes
0592T	Hlth&wb coaching indiv f-up	Yes
0593T	HIth&wb coaching indiv group	Yes
77427	Radiation tx management x5	No
90785	Psytx complex interactive	Yes
90791	Psych diagnostic evaluation	Yes
90792	Psych diag eval w/med srvcs	Yes
90832	Psytx w pt 30 minutes	Yes
90833	Psytx w pt w e/m 30 min	Yes
90834	Psytx w pt 45 minutes	Yes
90836	Psytx w pt w e/m 45 min	Yes
90837	Psytx w pt 60 minutes	Yes
90838	Psytx w pt w e/m 60 min	Yes
90839	Psytx crisis initial 60 min	Yes
90840	Psytx crisis ea addl 30 min	Yes
90845	Psychoanalysis	Yes
90846	Family psytx w/o pt 50 min	Yes
90847	Family psytx w/pt 50 min	Yes
90853	Group psychotherapy	Yes
90875	Psychophysiological therapy	No
90901	Biofeedback train any meth	No
90951	Esrd serv 4 visits p mo <2yr	No
90952	Esrd serv 2-3 vsts p mo <2yr	No
90953	Esrd serv 1 visit p mo <2 yrs	No
90954	Esrd serv 4 vsts p mo 2-11	No
90955	Esrd srv 2-3 vsts p mo 2-11	No
90956	Esrd srv 1 visit p mo 2-11	No
90957	Esrd srv 4 vsts p mo 12-19	No
90958	Esrd srv 2-3 vsts p mo 12-19	No
90959	Esrd serv 1 vst p mo 12-19	No
90960	Esrd srv 4 visits p mo 20+	No

Medicaid Reimbursement

Medicare Reimbursement



KEY RESULTS

Telehealth Parity Survey Results Analysis				
Characteristics				
Confidence				
Barriers				
Deterents				
Reimbursement				
Payment				
Parity				
Other Comments				

Confidence:

How confident are you in your understanding of telehealth coverage policies in South Carolina?

Barriers:

Select the top 3 barriers to providing telehealth in your practice.

Reimbursement:

The complexity of telehealth billing and reimbursement hinders my practice from utilizing telehealth services.

Parity:

To the best of your ability, please indicate which of the following SC legal statutes regarding telehealth coverage and payment you understand to be true.



KEY RESULTS: CONFIDENCE

- Clinical (73.7%) and Non-Clinical (63.2%) stakeholders lack confidence in understanding telehealth coverage.
- Lack of readily available educational materials tailored to South Carolinians could be a factor.
- Complexity of reimbursement procedures might also contribute to the lack of confidence among stakeholders.
- The highlighted values indicate that there much is desired to improve stakeholder confidence.

How confident are you in your	Clin	ical	Non-	Clinical	
understanding of telehealth coverage policies in South Carolina?	n	%	n	%	
Not at all confident	61	21.5%	7	18.4%	
Slightlyconfident	72	25.4%	9	23.7%	
Moderately confident	78	26.8%	8	21.1%	
Confident	56	19.7%	10	26.3%	
Very Confident	19	6.7%	4	10.5%	
Total	286	100%	38	100.0%	



KEY RESULTS: BARRIERS

Select the top 3 barriers to providing telehealth in your practice	n	%
Technical Difficulties	137	16.7%
Patient digital literacy challenges	129	15.8%
Inadequate reimbursement	112	13.7%
Coding or billing complexities/time	100	12.2%
Staying up to date with current regulations	93	11.4%
Workflow Inefficiencies	81	9.9%
Denials from insurance	65	7.9%
None	32	3.9%
Other	25	3.1%
Out-of-pocket costs for the patient	23	2.8%
Low/Lack of facility fee payment	22	2.7%
Total	819	100%

ADDITIONAL BARRIER COMMENTS

- Provider comments highlighted that in rural areas, some patients can't access the video ≈ Poor broadband coverage.
- Audio visits should be covered.
- Due to inadequate investment in infrastructure and older patients' lack of digital skills, accessing digital devices can be challenging.



KEY RESULTS: PAYMENT

How does reimbursement for video visits into a patient's home compare to reimbursement	Medicaid		Medicare		Commercial	
for in-person services at your practice	n	%	n	%	n	%
Paid at the same rate as in-person visits	89	37.6%	61	31.8%	79	30.2%
Paid at a higher rate than in-person visits	13	5.5%	11	5.7%	20	7.6%
Paid at a lower rate than in-person visits	100	42.2%	81	42.2%	114	43.5%
Not reimbursed	35	14.8%	39	20.3%	49	18.7%
Total	237	100%	192	100%	262	100%

- With the end of Public Health Emergency policies, **Medicare will no longer reimburse telemedicine** appointments at the same rate as in-person visits.
- Telemedicine visits will be reimbursed at the facility rate, which is established by CMS.
- Highlights a concerning reality that many healthcare providers may not be aware of currently.
- If government officials do not take action to establish permanent parity both on a national level and within South Carolina, this trend may impact utilization.



KEY RESULTS: PARITY

To the best of your ability, please indicate which of the following SC legal statutes regarding telehealth coverage and payment you understand to be true:	n	%
Unsure	162	47.1%
SC has no parity law (insurers may choose which services are covered via telehealth, and may provide different reimbursement rates for telehealth vs. in-person services)	96	27.9%
SC has a coverage parity law (insurers must cover services that are allowable in-person via telehealth, but not necessarily at the same rate)	65	18.9%
SC has both coverage and payment parity (insurers must cover and reimburse in the same way for telehealth services as they do inperson services)	14	4.1%
SC has a payment parity law (insurers must reimburse for services via telehealth at the same rate they cover those same services for inperson)	7	2.0%
Total	344	100.0%

- 72.1% of the respondents were uncertain or believed that some form of parity laws were in place in South Carolina.
- Currently, South Carolina does not have any parity laws in place.
- This emphasizes the need for a centralized source of information to provide proper education and address this lack of understanding among stakeholders.



KEY RESULTS: REIMBURSEMENT

- 49.4% of the respondents agreed that the complexity of telehealth billing and reimbursement hinders the utilization of telehealth services in practice.
- Lack of proper incentives from payers and government officials results in a lack of interest in offering modalities that could improve access to care.
- Utilization of telehealth services can increase if payers and government officials invest properly and reimburse at the same rate.

The complexity of telehealth billing and reimbursement hinders my practice from utilizing telehealth services.	n	%
Strongly disagree	18	5.6%
Disagree	40	12.4%
Neither disagree or agree	105	32.6%
Agree	115	35.7%
Strongly agree	44	13.7%
Total	322	100%



KEY RESULTS: ADDITIONAL PERSPECTIVES

- Stakeholders highlighted the need for education and training on telehealth technology.
- Healthcare providers and patients should receive more education and training on effectively using telehealth platforms.
- Healthcare providers should be adequately compensated for the time and expertise required for telehealth visits.
- Concerns were raised about the quality of care provided through telehealth.
- Any policies or reimbursement structures should consider the quality of care and appropriateness of telehealth for different medical conditions.



DISCUSSION

Limitations:

- Timeliness of legal and regulatory updates
- (Survey): General age demographic of the patients served
- Compare the opinions of providers with those of administrators

Future Work Needed:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Toolkit after launching by conducting a survey and updating it based on the results.
- Case studies can demonstrate the impact of parity laws on healthcare quality, access, and cost-effectiveness.

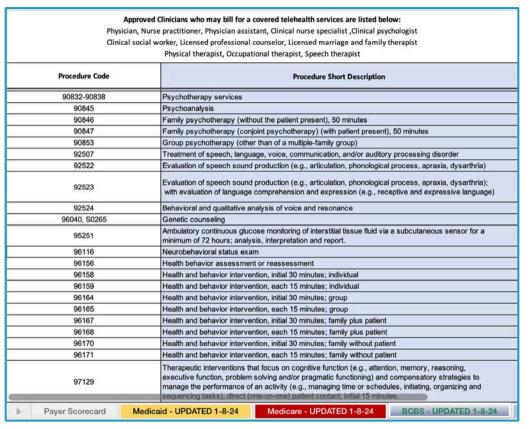


CONCLUSION

The need for a centralized source of information on Telehealth is long overdue. The creation of the Telehealth Toolkit and Employee Manual has established a foundation of knowledge to ensure stakeholders are well-informed while navigating the complexities of Telehealth in South Carolina. Although the future of telehealth reimbursement and policies is uncertain, the organization's introduction of these tools will help Providers and Administration to worry much less.







BlueCross BlueShield Reimbursement







UnitedHealthcare Reimbursement





"Palmetto Care Connections." 2024. Palmetto Care Connections. "2024. Palmetto Care Connections." 3024. Palmetto Care Connections. March 27, 2024. https://www.palmettocareconnections.org/about/palmettocareconnections."

Shaver, Julia. 2022. "The State of Telehealth before and after the COVID-19 Pandemic." Primary Care: Clinics in Office Practice 49 (4): 517–30. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pop.2022.04.002.

"Parity Requirements for Private Payer Telehealth Services - CCHP." 2024. CCHP. 2024. https://www.cchpca.org/topic/parity/#:~:text=2024).-,PAYMENT%20PARITY,healthcare%20services%20provided%20in%2Dperson.

Hyder, Maryam A, and Junaid Razzak. 2020. "Telemedicine in the United States: An Introduction for Students and Residents." Journal of Medical Internet Research 22 (11): e20839-39. https://doi.org/10.2196/20839.

"What is Telehealth? How is Telehealth Different from Telemedicine? | HealthIT.gov." 2019. Healthit.gov. 2019. https://www.healthit.gov/faq/what-telehealth-how-telehealth-different-telemedicine.

The. 2022: "The Difference between Telehealth vs Telemedicine." Modmed.com. October 10, 2022. https://www.modmed.com/resources/blog/the-difference-between-telehealth-vs-telemedicine.

"Telehealth and Telemedicine." 2022. Aafp.org. 2022. https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/telehealth-telemedicine.html#:"text=While%20telemedicine%20refers%20specifically%20to_facilitate%20and%20support%20assessment%2C%20diagnosis%2C.

Gajarawala, Shilpa N, and Jessica N Pelkowski. 2021. "Telehealth Benefits and Barriers." The Journal for Nurse Practitioners 17 (2): 218–21. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2020.09.013.

Bruce, Amy. 2021. "The Evolution of Telehealth." CNECT GPO. CNECT. May 4, 2021. https://cnectgpo.com/blog/the-evolution-of-telehealth/.

"What Is the CARES Act?" 2024. Investopedia. 2024. https://www.investopedia.com/coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-cares-act-4800707.

"Vast Majority of Specialists Increased Use of Telehealth Tech during COVID-19 Pandemic." 2020. Healthcare IT News. August 26, 2020. https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/vast-majority-specialists-increased-use-telehealth-tech-during-covid-19-pandemic.

Schorn, Mavis N, Carole R Myers, Julie Barroso, Karen Hande, Tamika Hudson, Jennifer Kim, and Ruth Kleinpell. 2022. "Changes in Telehealth Experienced by Advanced Practice RNs during COVID-19." CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing 41 (7): 507–13. https://doi.org/10.1097/cin.000000000000979.

Tosif Saiyad. 2023. "When Was Telehealth Invented? Discover It's Evolution over Time." Bigscal - Software Development Company. September 13, 2023. https://www.bigscal.com/blogs/healthcare-industry/when-was-telehealth-invented/.

"What is Telehealth' - CCHP." 2021. CCHP. April 16, 2021. https://www.cchpca.org/what-is-telehealth/.

Campbell, Kate, Geva Greenfield, Edmond Li, Niki O'Brien, Benedict Hayhoe, Thomas Beaney, Azeem Majeed, and Ana Luísa Neves. 2023. "The Impact of Virtual Consultations on the Quality of Primary Care: Systematic Review." Journal of Medical Internet Research 25 (August): e48920—20. https://doi.org/10.2196/48920.

DelVecchio, Alex. 2019. "Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM)." Health IT. TechTarget. 2019. https://www.techtarget.com/searchhealthit/definition/remote-patient-monitoring-RPM.

Zaporowski, Kelsey. 2023. "The Role of Mobile Apps in Healthcare Patient Engagement | Updox." Updox. December 8, 2023. https://www.updox.com/blog/the-role-of-mobile-apps-in-healthcare-patient-

 $\underline{engagement/\#:} \verb|'=:text=Healthcare\%20mobile\%20apps\%20are\%20reshaping, leading\%20to\%20better\%20care\%20outcomes. \\$

https://www.facebook.com/ExMyB.2024. "The Rise of Mobile Health Apps: How Technology Is Shaping Wellness in 2024." EMB Blogs. February 13, 2024. https://blog.emb.global/the-rise-of-mobile-health-apps-in-the-properties of the properties of the pro

 $\underline{2024/\#:} \text{```text=Mobile\%20health\%20apps\%20have\%20revolutionized\%20healthcare\%20accessibility,} connect\%20with\%20healthcare\%20providers\%20from\%20anywhere\%2C\%20anytime.$

"Health Care Access - MU School of Medicine." 2023. Missouri.edu. 2023. https://medicine.missouri.edu/centers-institutes-labs/health-ethics/fag/health-care-access#: "text=Health%20care%20access%20is%20the, must%20be%20affordable%20and%20convenient."

in. 2022. "The Share of Americans without Health Insurance in 2022 Matched a Record Low." Pgpf.org. pgpf.org. 2022. https://www.pgpf.org/blog/2023/11/the-share-of-americans-without-health-insurance-in-2022-matched-a-record-in-2022-matched-a-recor

low#:~:text=In%202022%2C%2026%20million%20people,was%20the%20lowest%20since%202017.

"Access to Care." 2024. Ahrq.gov. 2024. https://www.ahrq.gov/topics/access-care.html.

"How to Improve Access to Health Care: Issues & Solutions | USC EMHA | USC EMHA Online." 2023. Usc.edu. 2023. https://healthadministrationdegree.usc.edu/blog/how-to-improve-access-to-health-care.

"Addressing Rural Health Inequities in Medicare | CMS." 2023. Cms.gov. December 13, 2023. https://www.cms.gov/blog/addressing-rural-health-inequities-medicare.

"The State of the Urban/Rural Digital Divide | National Telecommunications and Information Administration." 2015. Ntia.gov. 2015. https://www.ntia.gov/blog/2016/state-urbanrural-digital-divide.

"Five Key Barriers to Healthcare Access in the United States." 2022. Wolterskluwer.com. Wolterskluwer. July 27, 2022. https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/expert-insights/five-key-barriers-to-healthcare-access-in-the-united-states.

Wolfe, Mary K, Noreen C McDonald, and G Mark Holmes. 2020. "Transportation Barriers to Health Care in the United States: Findings from the National Health Interview Survey, 1997–2017." American Journal of Public Health 110 (6): 815–22. https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2020.305579. "Addressing Language Barriers in Healthcare | Nursejournal.org." 2019. Nursejournal.org. 2019. https://nursejournal.org/articles/language-barriers-in-healthcare/.

Hilal Al Shamsi, Abdullah G Almutairi, Sulaiman Al Mashrafi, and Talib Al Kalbani. 2020. "Implications of Language Barriers for Healthcare: A Systematic Review." Oman Medical Journal 35 (2): e122-22. https://doi.org/10.5001/omj.2020.40.

Placzek, Hilary, Stephanie Cruz, Michelle Chapdelaine, Mary Carl, Sara Levin, and Clarissa Hsu. 2021. "Intersecting Systemic and Personal Barriers to Accessing Social Services: Qualitative Interviews in Northern California." BMC Public Health 21 (1). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-11981-5

CDC. 2023. "Health Workers Face a Mental Health Crisis." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. October 24, 2023. https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/health-worker-mental-

health/index.html#:":text=Burnout:%20In%202022%2C%2046%%20of%20health%20workers,percentage%20of%20health%20workers%20who%20reported%20experiencing.

Izdebski, Zbigniew, Alicja Kozakiewicz, Maciej Białorudzki, Joanna Dec-Pietrowska, and Joanna Mazur. 2023. "Occupational Burnout in Healthcare Workers, Stress and Other Symptoms of Work Overload during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Poland." International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 20 (3): 2428–28. https://doi.org/10.3390/jierph20032428.

"How Telemedicine Helped This Health System's Patients Avoid the ED." 2019. American Medical Association. June 19, 2019. https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/digital/how-telemedicine-helped-health-system-s-patients-avoid-normal-new research and research and

ed#: ``text=%E2%80%9CEach%20visit%20that%20successfully%20diverted%20an%20emergency, emergency%20department%20by%20between%205%%20and%2012%.

Derosa, Thomas. 2022. "Council Post: Building a Telehealth Primary Care Workforce during a Physician Shortage." Forbes, November 3, 2022. https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2022/11/02/building-a-telehealth-primary-care-workforce-during-a-physician-shortage/a-physici

"South Carolina Physician Shortage Facts - Cicero Institute." 2024. Cicero Institute. January 31, 2024. https://ciceroinstitute.org/research/south-carolina-physician-shortage-facts/.





SOURCES

"Health Cost and Affordability Policy Issues and Trends to Watchin 2024 - Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker." 2024. Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker. January 30, 2024. https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/brief/policy-issues-and-trends-2024/#:~:text=Health%20spending%20in%20the%20United.trends%20to%20watch%20in%202024...

"Virtual Savings: Patient-Reported Time and Money Savings from a va National Telehealth Tablet Initiative | Telemedicine and E-Health." 2021. Telemedicine and E-Health. 2021. https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/tmi.2019.0179.

"Taskforce on Telehealth Policy Findings and Recommendations - Telehealth Effect on Total Cost of Care - NCQA." 2020. NCQA. September 15, 2020. https://www.ncqa.org/programs/data-and-information-technology/telehealth/taskforce-on-telehealth-policy/ policy-findings-and-recommendations-telehealth-effect-on-total-cost-of-care/# ftn13.

"Telehealth Can Save People with Cancer Time and Money." 2023. National Cancer Institute. Cancer.gov. February 16, 2023. https://www.cancer.gov/news-events/cancer-currents-blog/2023/telehealth-cancer-care-saves-time-money.

"Safety Net | Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality." 2024. Ahrq.gov. 2024. https://www.ahrq.gov/topics/safety-net.html#:~:text=Safety%20net%20practices%20are%20defined,Medicaid%20and%20other%20vulnerable%20patients.%22.

US), Medicine, Marion Ein Lewin, and Stuart Altman. 2024. "The Core Safety Net and the Safety Net System." Nih.gov. National Academies Press (US). 2024. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK224521/.

"What Is the 'Safety Net' in the US Public Health System? | Brother's Brother Foundation." 2023. Brother's Brother Foundation. October 25, 2023. https://brothersbrother.org/what-is-the-safety-net-in-the-us-public-health-system/. Informing the Future, 2009, National Academies Press EBooks, https://doi.org/10.17226/12709.

"Rural Health Clinic." n.d. Accessed March 28, 2024. https://www.cms.gov/files/document/rhcfactsheetpdf#: ":text=THE%20RURAL%20HEALTH%20CLINIC%20(RHC)%20PROGRAM%20was.

"Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) Overview - Rural Health Information Hub." 2016. Ruralhealthinfo.org. 2016. https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/rural-health-clinics.

Harrah, Scott. 2023. "Medically Underserved Areas in the US." Umhs-Sk.org. 2023. https://www.umhs-sk.org/blog/medically-underserved-areas-regions-where-u-s-needs-doctors.

"Telehealth Use in Rural Healthcare Overview - Rural Health Information Hub." 2020. Ruralhealthinfo.org. 2020.

https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/telehealth#:"text=Using%20teleh

"Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) | Texas DSHS." 2019. Texas.gov. 2019. https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-primary-care-office-tpco/federally-qualified-health-centers-fqhc.

Lombardi, Brianna M., Lisa de Saxe Zerden, and Catherine Greeno. 2022. "Federally Qualified Health Centers Use of Telehealth to Deliver Integrated Behavioral Health Care during COVID-19." Community Mental Health Journal, December. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-022-01070-1. "Medicare and Telehealth: Coverage and Use during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Options for the Future | KFF." 2021. KFF. May 19, 2021. https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/medicare-and-telehealth-coverage-and-use-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-options-for-the-future/.

Demeke, Hanna B, Sharifa Merali, Suzanne Marks, Leah Zilversmit Pao, Lisa Romero, Paramiit Sandhu, Hollie Clark, et al. 2021. "Trends in Use of Telehealth among Health Centers during the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, June 26—November 6, 2020." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 70 (7): 240-44. https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7007a3.

"Victory for Healthcare Freedom - Telehealth Bill Sent to Governor's Desk!" 2024. Palmetto Promise Institute. February 6, 2024. https://palmettopromise.org/victory-for-healthcare-freedom-telehealth-bill-sent-to-governors-desk/.

Midkiff, Ramona. 2024. "H. 4159 Passes Legislature, Awaits Governor's Signature - Palmetto Care Connections." Palmetto Care Connections. February 5, 2024. https://www.palmettocareconnections.org/news/h-4159-passes-legislature-awaits-governors-signature/.

"PHYSICIANS SERVICES PROVIDER MANUAL." 2021. https://provider.scdhhs.gov/internet/pdf/manuals/Physicians/Manual.pdf.

"Telehealth Policy 101 - CCHP." 2024. CCHP. March 27, 2024. https://www.cchpca.org/policy-101/.

"Telemedicine FAQs | BlueChoice HealthPlan of South Carolina." 2024. Bluechoicesc.com. 2024. https://www.bluechoicesc.com/providers/provider-training-and-faqs/telemedicine-faqs.

Fariha Abbasi-Feinberg, 2020. "Telemedicine Coding and Reimbursement - Current and Future Trends." Sleep Medicine Clinics 15 (3): 417–29. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsmc.2020.06.002.

"Prior Authorization Practice Resources." 2023. American Medical Association. May 18, 2023. https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/sustainability/prior-authorization-practice-

resources#:~:text=Prior%20authorization%E2%80%94sometimes%20called%20preauthorization,to%20qualify%20for%20payment%20coverage

"The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) | CMS." 2014. Cms.gov. 2014. https://www.cms.gov/marketplace/private-health-insurance/mental-health-parity-addiction-equity.

Lee, Hyunjung, and Gopal K Singh. 2023. "The Impact of Telemedicine Parity Requirements on Telehealth Utilization in the United States during the COVID-19 Pandemic." Journal of Public Health Management and Practice 29 (4): E147–56. https://doi.org/10.1097/phh.000000000001722.

Busse, Reinhard, Dimitra Panteli, and Wilm Quentin. 2019. "An Introduction to Healthcare Quality: Defining and Explaining its Role in Health Systems." Nih.gov. European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. 2019. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK549277/. Sloan, MIT. 2017. "Hospital Quality Scores Really Do Reflect Patient Outcomes | MIT Sloan. March 27, 2017. https://mitsloan.mit.edu/ideas-made-to-matter/hospital-quality-scores-really-do-reflect-patient-

outcomes#:~:text=Patients%20treated%20in%20hospitals%20with,within%20one%20year%20of%20admission%2C.

"Six Domains of Health Care Quality." 2022. Ahrq.gov. 2022. https://www.ahrq.gov/talkingquality/measures/six-domains.html.

"QUALITY in HEALTHCARE." 2020. Nih.gov. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US). December 2020. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK579353/.

"2021 Telehealth Survey Report." 2022.

https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/telehealth-survey-report.pdf





SOURCES

Demaerschalk, Bart M, Judd E Hollander, Elizabeth Krupinski, John Scott, Daniel Albert, Zarrina Bobokalonova, Marcy Bolster, et al. 2023. "Quality Frameworks for Virtual Care: Expert Panel Recommendations." Mayo Clinic Proceedings: Innovations, Quality & Outcomes 7 (1): 31–44. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mayorgina. 2022. 12 201.

Asim Kichloo, Michael Albosta, Kirk Dettloff, Farah Wani, Zain El-Amir, Jagmeet Singh, Michael Aljadah, et al. 2020. "Telemedicine, the Current COVID-19 Pandemic and the Future: A Narrative Review and Perspectives Moving Forward in the USA." Family Medicine and Community Health 8 (3): Health 8 (

"FY19-20 Proviso 117.126 (C) - Telehealth Report." South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. 2019. https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/DHHS/Telehealth%20Report%20117.126%20C%20-%20FY%2019-20.pdf

"Hospital Telehealth Adoption Increased in 2014 and 2015 and Was Influenced by Population, Hospital, and Policy Characteristics | Telemedicine and E-Health," 2014, Telemedicine and E-Health, 2014

https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/tmj.2019.0029?casa_token=YtlQFAkR2WAAAAAA%3ABtcXwtc1DbWWScfjfDuoSNK17RAd0uqnGCFHBSLgjkjr7vLU9PPc_KTZil.4lpjf8T-DlHEdEGoz9ow&journalCode=tmj.

Kruse, Clemens, and Katharine Heinemann. 2022. "Facilitators and Barriers to the Adoption of Telemedicine during the First Year of COVID-19: Systematic Review." Journal of Medical Internet Research 24 (1): e31752-52. https://doi.org/10.2196/31752.

"Telehealth by the Numbers." 2024. Sctelehealth.org. 2024. https://sctelehealth.org/year-in-review/telehealth-by-the-numbers.

"Pandemic Pivot." 2024. Muschealth.org. 2024. https://muschealth.org/health-professionals/progressnotes/2020/fall/pandemic-pivot#:":text=During%20that%20timeframe%2C%20telehealth%20visits,physicians%20via%20secure%20video%20teleconferencing...

"Extending Telehealth Parity Will Advance Patient Care." 2023. American Medical Association. December 27, 2023. <a href="https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/digital/extending-telehealth-parity-will-advance-patient-care#:"text=Telehealth%20usage%20soared%20during%20the,was%20capably%20demonstrated%20years%20earlier.

"Telehealth Integration and Optimization Toolkit." 2024. American Medical Association. March 14, 2024. https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/ama-steps-forward/telehealth-integration-and-optimization-toolkit.

Yamada, Janet, Allyson Shorkey, Melanie Barwick, Kimberley Widger, and Bonnie J Stevens. 2015. "The Effectiveness of Toolkits as Knowledge Translation Strategies for Integrating Evidence into Clinical Care: A Systematic Review." BMJ Open 5 (4): e006808-8. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2014-006808.

"S,368-117th Congress (2021-2022): Telehealth Modernization Act." 2021. Congress.gov. 2021. https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-

bill/368#: ":text=Introduced%20in%20Senate%20(02%2F23%2F2021)&text=This%20bill%20modifies%20requirements%20relating,i.e.%2C%20coronavirus%20disease%202019).

Finkelstein, Ruth, Yiyi Wu, and Mark Brennan-Ing. 2023. "Older Adults' Experiences with Using Information and Communication Technology and Tech Support Services in New York City: Findings and Recommendations for Post-Pandemic Digital Pedagogy for Older Adults." Frontiers in Psychology 14 (April). https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.112951



THANKS!

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by Slidesgo, including icons by Flaticon, and infographics & images by Freepik and illustrations



