



Association for
the Advancement
of Wound Care



Telemedicine

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Lower Extremity Summit
November 2-3 • Sacramento, California

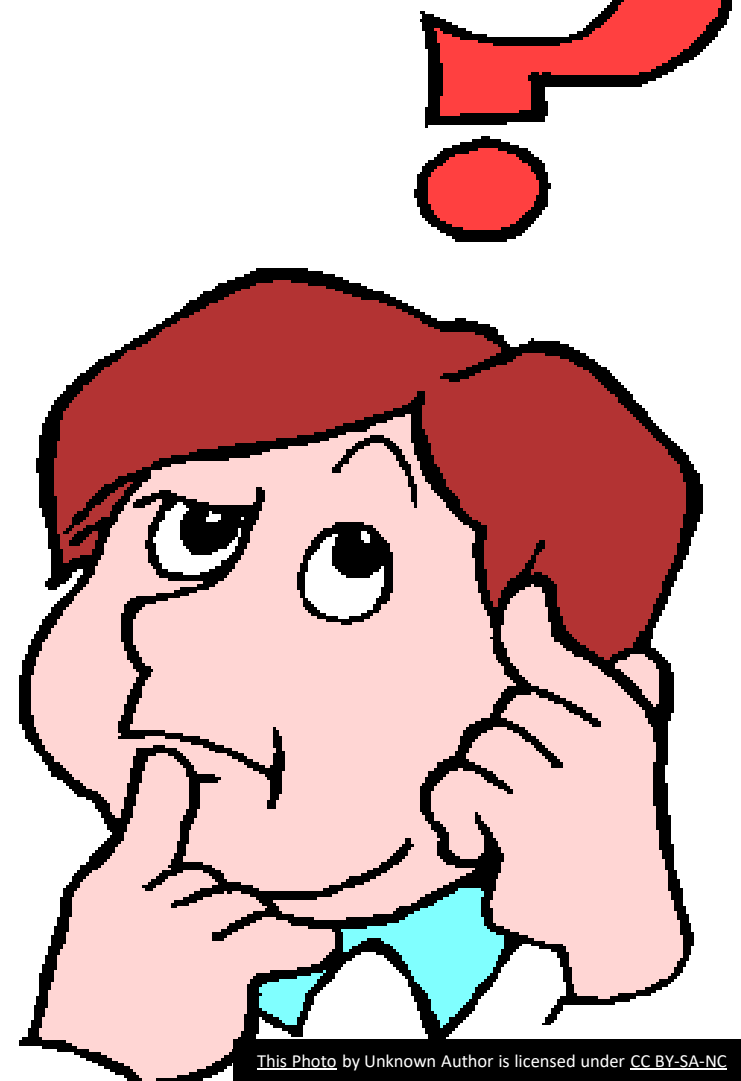


Objectives

- Define telemedicine
- Define the different types of telemedicine
- Discuss technology for wound care in telemedicine
- Discuss possible applications of telemedicine
- Discuss coverage of telemedicine

What is Telemedicine?

- Telemedicine is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the practice of healthcare using audio, visual, and or data communications.
- This can include a variety of healthcare delivery including diagnostic, consultation, treatment, education, and/ or transfer of medical care.



History of Telemedicine



In the US, the earliest form of telemedicine was in 1961, when the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded a two way closed circuit TV link between two psychiatric hospitals



NASA also adopted this technology in the early 1970's (for obvious transportation issues)



In a WHO 2010 survey, 60% of all nations had some form of telemedicine



In 1996, NIH awarded 19 multiyear grants to evaluate the cost, the efficient, and the improved access afforded by telemedicine

Current state



There are currently about 200 telemedicine networks with about 3500 service sites in the United States (US).



In 2014, the Veterans Health Administration delivered more than 300,000 remote consultations using telemedicine.



More than half of US hospitals have some form of telemedicine.

Types of telemedicine

- Two primary types:
 - Synchronous: real time communication where the patient and the provider are on a live two-way interaction
 - Asynchronous: delayed communication or often a “store and forward”

Definitions

Sites of care:

- Origination: location of the patient at the time of the service
- Distant: location of the eligible healthcare provider

Telemedicine: synchronous audio/visual (A/V) technology to connect a **provider** to a patient

Telehealth: delivery of non provider services via use of AV technology (i.e. interpreting services)

Remote patient monitoring (RPM): mobile application that monitors vitals signs, healthy survey, and may allow video and live chat

E-consults: when a provider connects with another provider

Tele-presenter: professional who presents in the originating site alongside the patient to facilitate comprehensive care under the direction of the provider (i.e. Home Health Agency)

Telemedicine and wound care



Visual nature of wound care makes it a nice fit for telemedicine



Ideal for patients who need improved monitoring but have mobility/ transportation issues



Still requires a skilled clinician who can provide the wound care.

Telemedicine in Wound Care

Advantages

- System savings (reduced care costs and hospitalizations)
- Reduced patient costs (d/t accessing care)
- Easy access to specialists
- Easy access for patients
- Improves access to care across socioeconomic and cultural circles
- Facilitates provider-patient communication
- Expands reach for providers
- Ability to recruit new patients
- Establishes wound care center as central hub for telemedicine

Disadvantages

- Added cost for fast and reliable broadband connections, technical training and equipment
- Complicated policies and reimbursement
- Hard to identify credentials
- Special licensing requirements
- Decreased in person visits can lead to misdiagnosis
- Decreased personal care- missed opportunity to hold hands and develop psychological consultation

- “Telemedicine seeks to improve a patient’s health by permitting two-way, real-time interactive communication between the patient and the physician or practitioner at the distant site. This electronic communication means the use of interactive telecommunications equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment”

Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services- Position Statement

CY 2019 Medicare Telehealth Services

HCPCS/ CPT Code	Service
• G0425-G0427	Telehealth consultations, emergency department or initial in patient
• G0406-G0408	Follow up in patient telehealth consultations furnished to beneficiaries in hospitals or SNFs
• 99201-99215	Office or other outpatient visits
• 99231-99233	Subsequent hospital care services, with the limitation of 1 telehealth visit every 3 days
• 99307-99310	Subsequent nursing facility care services, with the limitation of 1 telehealth visit every 3 days.

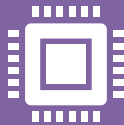
Technology



Use of Electronic Health Record (EHR)



Use of technology for measurement and photography



Use of technology for communication

Use of technology in telemedicine



Figure 1. Telemedicine is a synchronous audio/video technology to connect a provider to a patient. These services can be provided by physician, or an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) and physician assistant (PA) under physician supervision.

The Future

Expanding coverage =
expanding guidelines

? Maybe not just for
rural communities

Legal implications

References

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