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MEDICAL INFORMATICS AND TELEMEDICINE HOW DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IS TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE AND TELEMEDICINE

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Statement of the Problem: current review of the ways in which digital technology and telehealth is changing health and patient care delivery. Connected health, also known as technology enabled care (TEC), involves the convergence of technology, digital media, mobile devices and patient care. It enables patients, care givers and healthcare professionals to access data and information more easily to improve quality of care and outcomes. There is a growing body of research showing that TEC and telemedicine has the potential to transform the delivery of care. TEC not only increases access to care for conditions and population, but also has potential to be a cost-effective solution at a time when demands on healthcare services continue to increase. TEC mHealth opportunities range from the simple, single use with focus on wellness to the complex, integrated solution with predictive analytics for decision support. Many ACO's use complex mHealth solutions to achieve optimal patient management of a specific disease, tracking data across the continuum of patient care and providing telehealth for conditions of care. Individuals increasingly use apps and wearable products to support wellness, diet and consumer directed health.

Benefits of TEC include:

- 60% reduction in paperwork for community nurses
- 29% increase in patient face time by provider
- 2 additional patients seen daily
- 35% reduction in hospital admissions despite these benefits, there have been barrios to adoption and acceptance.

Conclusion: A growing body of evidence shows that telehealth may expand access to services, create cost savings and increase the ability to access timely. However, additional research into telehealth, using larger samples sizes, diverse geographies and a broader range of conditions will assist in understanding full range of benefits and impact policy standards. Future research on TEC may help providers and health systems differentiate and communicate the value of telehealth services to increase adoption.

Notes:

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