AFHCAN Telehealth

Innovations in Health Care

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“Telemedicine is the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve patients' health status.”

“... Telehealth ... is often used to encompass a broader definition of remote healthcare that does not always involve clinical services. “

*American Telemedicine Association*
Alaska Tribal Health System

Medical Care Service Levels

- Alaska Native Medical Center tertiary care
  - Referrals to private medical providers and other states for complex care
- 6 regional hospitals
- 4 multi-physician health centers
- 25 subregional mid-level care centers
- 180 small community primary care centers
ANTHC Vision: Alaska Natives are the healthiest people in the world.
Northwest/Pacific States

- **Alaska** – 27 MUAs within the state – in 1998 Alaska ranked 48th among the states in the ratio of doctors to residents
- **Hawaii** – 17 MUAs within the islands
- **Idaho** – 48 MUAs within the state
- **Montana** – 63 MUAs within the state – all or parts of Montana’s 56 counties are Federally identified Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA’s), Medically Underserved Areas (MUA’s) or Dental Shortage Areas (DSA’s)
- **Oregon** – 66 MUAs within the state
- **Utah** – 23 MUAs within the state – 20 of Utah’s counties are designated as Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), 25 are designated as Mental Health HPSAs, 21 are designated as Dental HPSAs.
- **Washington** – 53 MUAs within the state
- **Wyoming** – 14 MUAs within the state – 18 of 23 Wyoming counties have HPSA designation; all 23 counties designated mental health PSA’s.
Telemedicine is one STRATEGY to improve access, quality & performance and to manage costs & risk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Since 2001</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>199,562</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,229</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases created</td>
<td>Patients served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>82,274</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,982</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providers involved</td>
<td><strong>1,686</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3,953</strong></td>
<td>Providers creating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2,335</strong></td>
<td><strong>914</strong></td>
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INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE
BEST FOR PATIENT CARE
REDUCES COST
Telehealth Impact on Extended Waiting Times (> 4 months)

Data courtesy of Phil Hofstetter

Percent Appointment Availability With 5 Month or Longer Wait Time

Pre-Telemed 1991-2001 (n=1216)  
With Telemed 2002-2004 (n=276)  
With Telemed 2005-2007 (n=210)

Data courtesy of Phil Hofstetter
ANMC Turnaround Time

40% of cases are turned around in 60 minutes

60% of cases are turned around in 2 hours

80% of cases are turned around in the same day
Diabetic Retinopathy

• Diabetic Retinopathy is the leading cause of new blindness among adults

• Blindness due to diabetes can be eliminated by timely Dx and Tx

• ~ 4% of AI/AN’s with DM need laser tx to prevent vision loss
Joslin Vision Network (JVN) Portable JVN Pilot

Deployment of the IHS-JVN in Alaska using a portable platform reversed a seven year decline in rates for the state.
Comparison of surgical time (actual surgical time – estimated surgical time) for telehealth and non-telehealth cases. Values in the right half of the plot represent cases which took longer than planned (42% of telehealth cases and 47% of non-telehealth cases); values in the left half represent cases that took less time than planned (58% of telehealth cases and 53% of non-telehealth cases).
Estimated annual savings from telehealth for all patients amounts to about $8.3m with a total savings of $37.8m since 2003.
Travel CAUSED (by Case Role)

% Cases

- Primary Care
- Specialty Care
WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
10 Years Ago

“Should we do telemedicine”

“Will patients be satisfied”

“How do we do telemedicine”

The questions have changed ...

Now

“How do we integrate telehealth with the care environment”

“How can we support and expand telehealth capability”
The Clinician’s Perspective
... the New Limiting Step
The Keys to the Future

- Partnerships
- Preparing and Supporting Rapid Growth
- Integration with Health Care
- Leveraging new Informatics Technologies
- Continuing to demonstrate Value Proposition
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