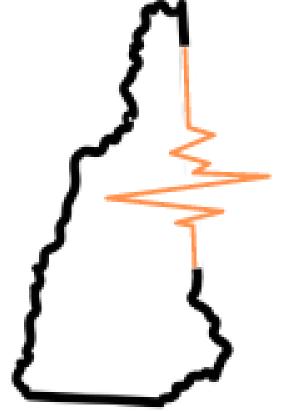
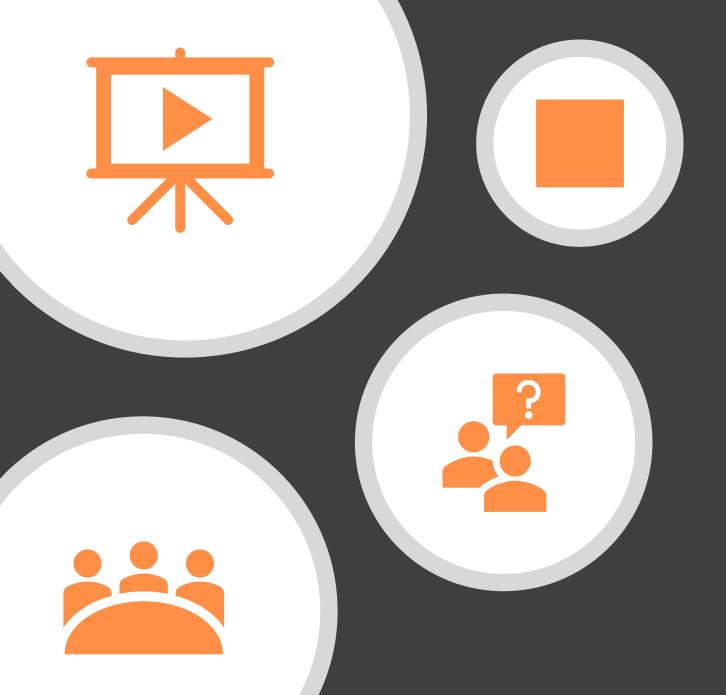
## New Hampshire telehealth



Jim Monahan

Founder, NH Telehealth Alliance





## How to Participate:

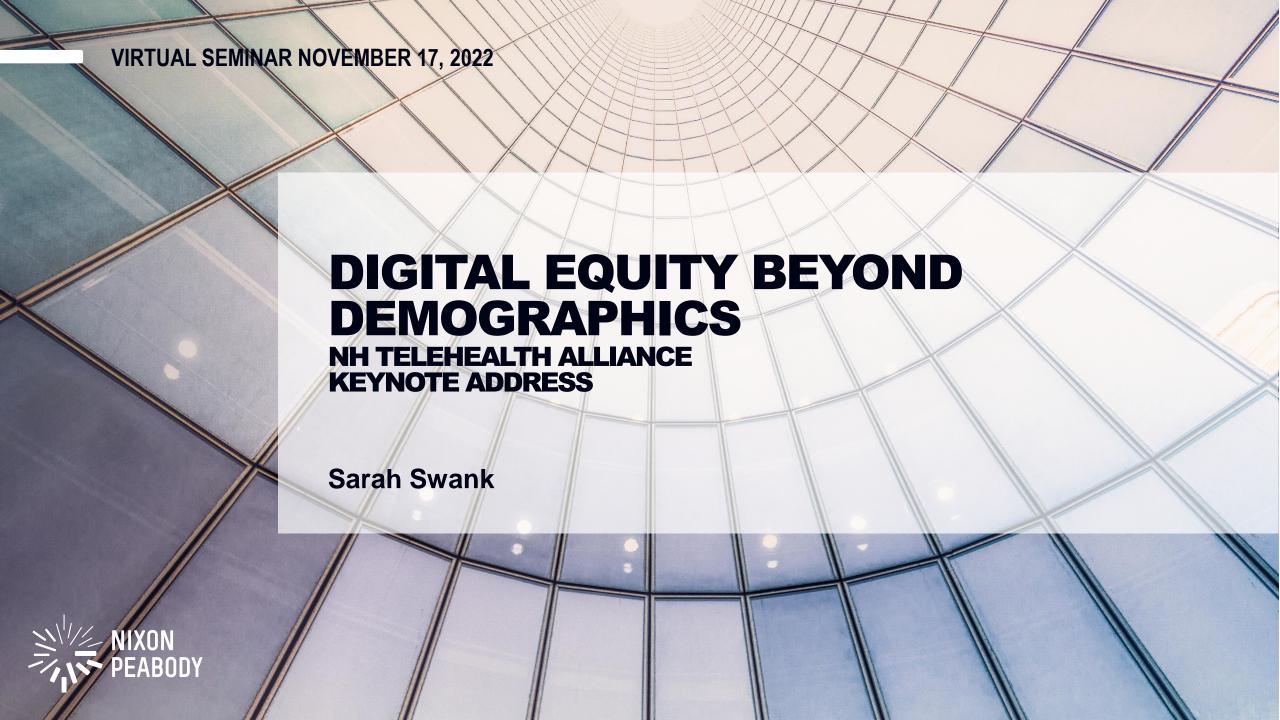
- Questions will be addressed at the end of each segment of the webinar.
- Submit a question via the "Q&A" feature in the black toolbar located at the top or bottom of your screen.
- Only questions submitted via Q&A will be read by our host for the panelists to address.
- A recording of this webinar will be made available to members.



#### Digital Equity Beyond Demographics

with

Sarah Swank, Counsel, Nixon Peabody LLP



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#### TODAY'S DISCUSSION

#### Where Policy, Law and Operations Meet

- 1. What is health equity
- 2. The digital landscape
- 3. Current barriers
- 4. Legal pitfalls and opportunities
- 5. Steps to take to improve equity
- 6. What's on the horizon
- 7. Questions





### WHAT IS HEALTH EQUITY



#### **HEALTH EQUITY**

- Often defined as outcomes based and data that shows shorten life expectance or outcomes that are often life or death
- Disparities or differences
- Underserved communities as a need definition
- Social determinants of health



## CMS FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH EQUITY

CMS defines as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people, where everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, preferred language, or other factors that affect access to care and health outcomes.





#### **UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES**

This framework comes from Executive Order 13985 on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

The term "underserved communities" is defined as populations sharing a particular characteristic, including geographic communities that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified in the definition of "equity."

This includes members of racial and ethnic communities; people with disabilities; members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) community; individuals with limited English proficiency; members of rural communities; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.



## THE CMS EQUITY PLAN FOR IMPROVING QUALITY IN MEDICARE

Priority 1: Expand the collection, reporting, and analysis of standardized data

Priority 2: Assess causes of disparities within CMS programs and address inequities in policies and operations to close gaps

Priority 3: Build capacity of healthcare organizations and the workforce to reduce health and healthcare disparities

Priority 4: Advance language access, health literacy, and the provision of culturally tailored services

Priority 5: Increase all forms of accessibility to healthcare services and coverage



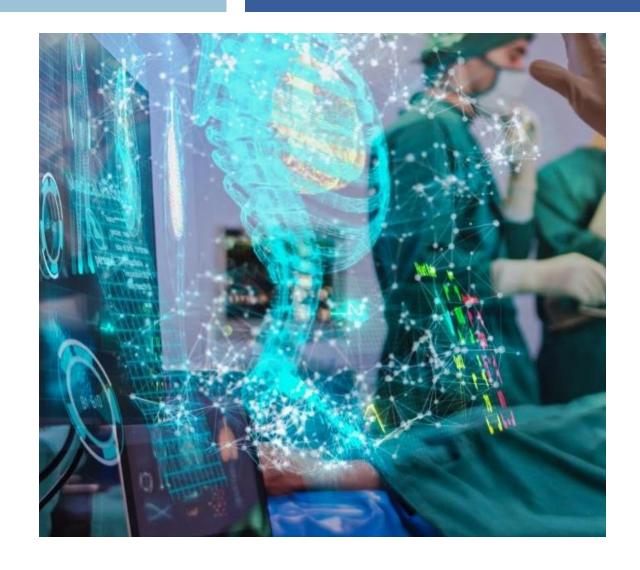
## TECHNOLOGY PLAYS INTO HEALTH EQUITY

Technology plays into health equity. – How it is developed and how it is used – or not used – impacts health outcomes.



#### **DIGITAL ACCESS**

Redefine access in a digital age. Virtual care is now integrated into the care delivery system. We do not want to leave anyone behind. If we do, we create a digital divide.



#### THE DIGITAL LANDSCAPE



"

A global technology revolution is now underway. The world's leading powers are racing to develop and deploy new technologies like artificial intelligence and quantum computing that could shape everything about our lives—from where we get energy to how we do our jobs to how wars are fought. We want America to maintain our scientific and technological edge, because it's critical to us thriving in the 21st century economy.



Antony J. Blinken Secretary Of State



#### RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES

https://www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/artificial-intelligence

A.I./REAL LIFE

#### 'No-Code' Brings the Power of A.I. to the Masses

A growing number of new products allow anyone to apply artificial intelligence without having to write a line of computer code. Proponents believe the "no-code" movement will change the world.



A.I./REAL LIFE

Can A.I. Help Casinos Cut Down on Problem Gambling?

The opportunities seem endless. The reality is much more complicated.

By BRADFORD PEARSON



TRILOBITES

#### When Pigs Cry: Tool Decodes the Emotional Lives of Swine

An algorithm built by European researchers could help farmers "speak pig" to improve the animals' welfare.

By CORINNE PURTILL



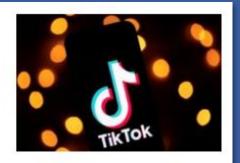
THE MEDIA EQUATION

#### How TikTok Reads Your Mind

It's the most successful video app in the world. Our columnist has obtained an internal company document that offers a new level of detail about how the algorithm works.







#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Terms in healthcare sometimes do not have definitions under the law. Sometimes the law ends up defining or narrowing a term in healthcare.

#### **Telemedicine**

Focus on physicians in the hospitals.

#### **eHealth**

Bigger term as technology grows. Reimbursement limited.

#### **Telehealth**

Broader term to show opportunities beyond physicians.

#### **Digital Health**

General definition that covers a lot but not a definition under the law. Free from a care setting. Direct to consumer.

#### Remote Patient Monitoring and Remote Patient Therapy

Codes expanded during the pandemic driving new definitions.



## HOW A PANDEMIC PUSHED US INTO THE FUTURE



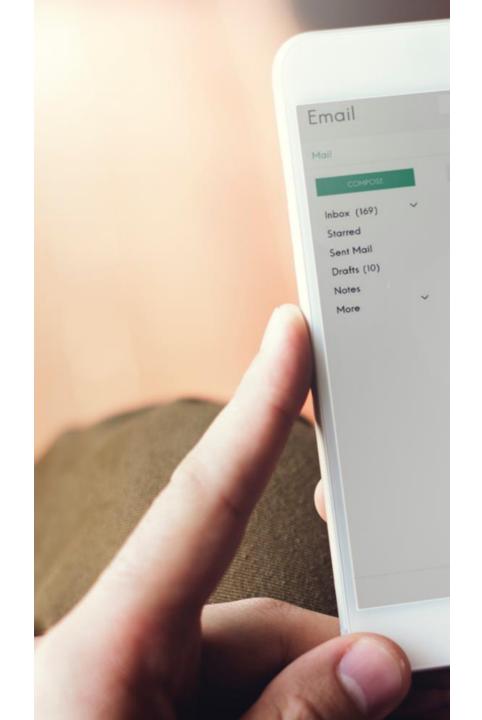


#### CURRENT BARRIERS



#### **BARRIERS**

- Lack of access to technology or broad band
- Digital health literacy (the ability to use the technology)
- Access barriers
- Creates what same call a "" or the "digital divide"





## THE REAL LIFE BARRIERS

You cannot get to the physician's office.

Great news! We can offer you a telehealth appointment and you don't have to leave where you are and you can take it from anywhere.

Telephonic back up is one solution and development of inclusive technology is another.

Why couldn't the person get to the office?

#### THE WHAT IF'S

ш

What if the technology is not built with an interpretive service in your primary language?

What if it is built with buttons you need to see to push?

But what if you don't have a phone? Or have a hard time using it?

Or broad-band or cell services?

What if "health care" is just not easy for you to use?



## LEGAL PITFALLS AND OPPORTUNITIES

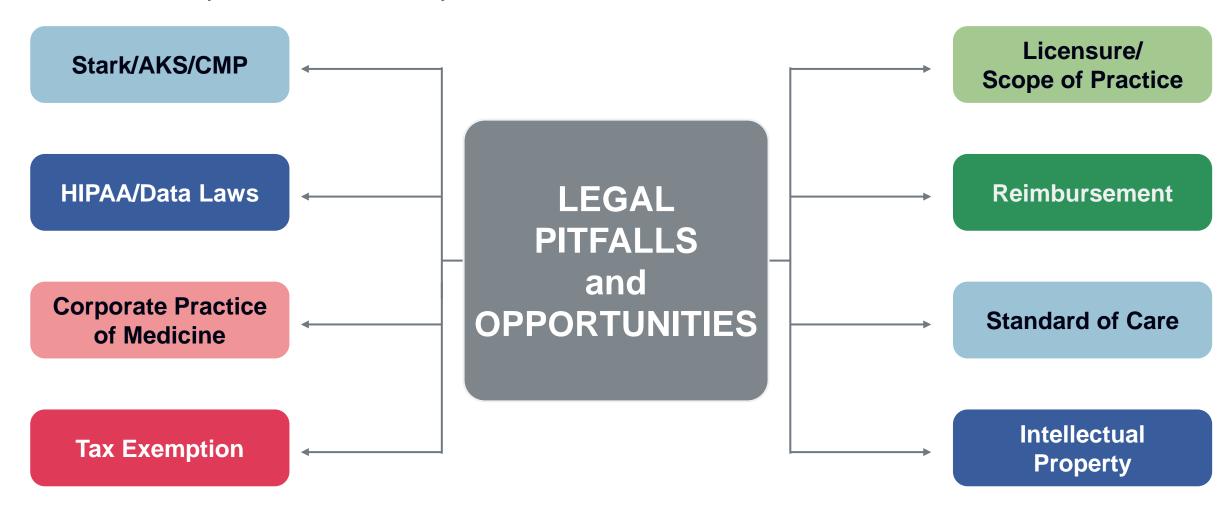


### "It takes a lot less time to do the right thing, than to explain why you did it wrong."

**HW Longfellow** 

#### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

These likely look familiar and they are familiar to health care.





#### Data

# The world's most valuable resource is no longer oil, but data.

#### **BIG DATA**

#### Too big or not big enough?

- / De-identified data?
- / What's the proposed use? Clinical research? Marketing?

- / Common Rule and FDA regulations
- / Is it research? Does it need IRB review?

- / Do you have enough data? FDA review? Bias?
- / Is it a messy data jungle or a firing hose?

Consumer protections.

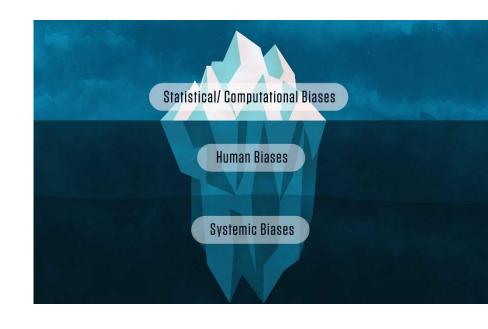




#### **BIAS: IS AI BIAS REAL**

## Towards a Standard for Identifying and Managing Bias in Artificial Intelligence (March 15, 2022)

Concepts and behavior that are ambiguous in nature are captured in this environment, quantified, and used to categorize, sort, recommend, or make decisions about people's lives. While many organizations seek to utilize this information in a responsible manner, biases remain endemic across technology processes and can lead to harmful impacts regardless of intent. These harmful outcomes, even if inadvertent, create significant challenges for cultivating public trust in artificial intelligence.



Credit: N. Hanacek/NIST

- What is bias?
- What are the challenges to bias?
- Is it just data bias that impacts AI? Do humans play a part? What about systems?
- What does that look like in health care?
- NIST Standards: Sought comments and continues to seek comments.



#### AI BILL OF RIGHTS

he White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) released the Blueprint for an Al Bill of Rights set up as a guide for the design, development, and deployment of artificial intelligence (Al) in healthcare.

OSTP says it is one of the great challenges posed to democracy today is the use of technology, data, and automated systems in ways that threaten the rights of the American public.

The report cites that systems used to support patient care can be unsafe, ineffective, or biased. At the same time, these same systems can support the growth, development, and innovation of care delivery.



## We act now or we may bake in the bias into our health care system.



#### **VALUE BASED PAYMENTS**

My favorite animal the Unicorn ... ACOs

**ACO** reach

Z codes are already there

SNF and other rules track equity plans



#### NAVIGATING FEDERAL LAW BARRIERS – SPRINT RULES

Virtually all relationships in the healthcare industry implicate one of these laws:

- / the Anti-Kickback Statute (AKS)
- / the beneficiary inducement provisions of the Civil Monetary Penalties Law (CMPL)
- / the physician self-referral law ("Stark" Law)

- Waivers were key to innovation, did we "sprint" far enough
- Remember the "fruit salad" problems

So, can I give away technology?
What does the law allow me to do?

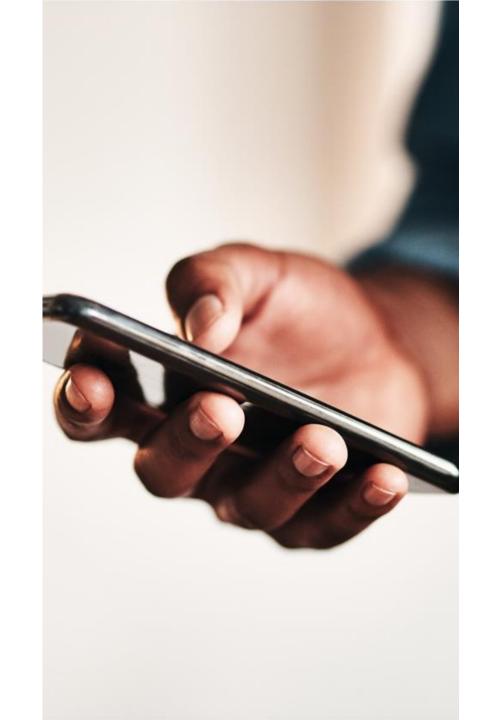


## SOFTWARE AS A MEDICAL DEVICE

21st Century Cures Act provided that certain software is not regulated by the FDA as a medical device if:

- Software that allows user to record data such as weight, blood pressure, blood glucose, or other data from the device
- / Software that allows the patients and provider to communicate and workflow

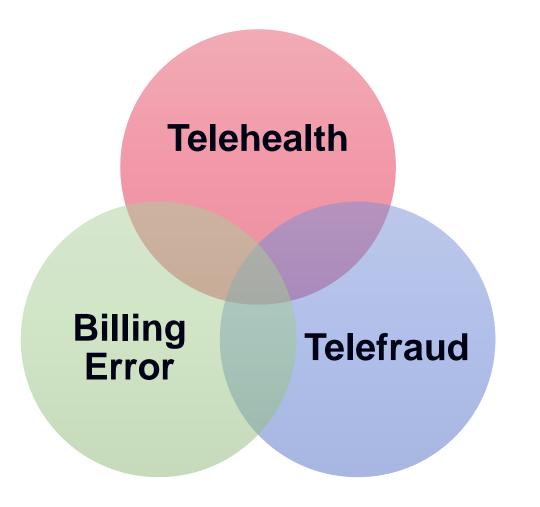
**Enforcement discretion during the pandemic** 

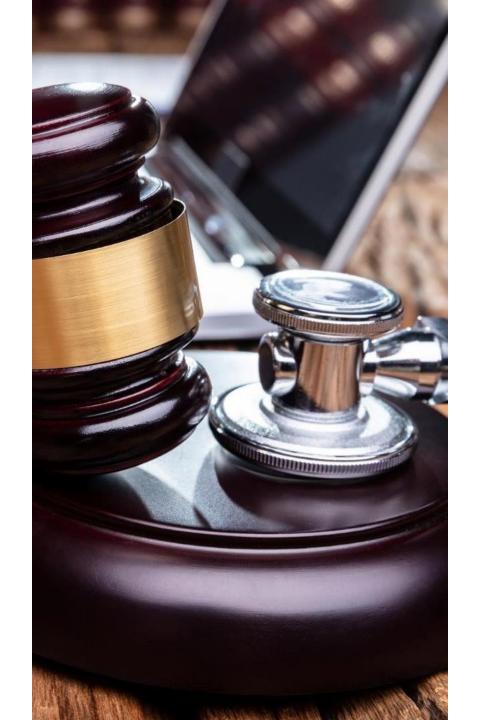




#### **OIG ENFORCEMENT**

**Enforcement Actions** 







## CYBER SECURITY SECURITY, INTEGRATION AND EXCHANGE



## STEPS TO IMPROVE EQUITY



## **HEALTH EQUITY**

- / Use technology designed with equity in mind when it comes to speech recognition and health prediction algorithms
- / Encourage all patients to get involved in planning and implementing health equity. This could include:
  - Sitting on a board or committee
  - Providing input on materials or procedures
  - Conducting sensitivity training

- / Look for skills and experiences within your team, including:
  - Cultural competency
  - Connections to the local community
  - Experience working with underserved patient groups
  - Fluency in languages other than English

Sample best practice from Telehealth.hhs.gov



#### STANDARD OF CARE/MALPRACTICE

- Standard of care differs from community to community
- Changes in technology has changed standard of care
- Changes in evidenced-based medicine has changed standard of care
- Adoption embraced by some and feared by others

#### **Best Practices**

- Involve clinical staff and medical staff leadership
- Integration into compliance audit, peer review and other processes
- Create interdisciplinary committees for review
- Review technology agreement
- Ensure diversity in your clinicians and workforce

## WHAT CAN YOUR ORGANIZATION DO?

Review procurement process of software and other technology

Training and education, including the Board

**Innovate but ensure compliance with laws** 

Watch what enforcement actions are occurring

Understand new payment models and quality indicators

Look at your leadership team and board composition

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Look at your team
- Educate yourself on implicit bias
- Look at the community organizations where you volunteer your time
- Speak up. Ask questions. Learn.



### **GROWING YOUR PROGRAM**

#### People

- Clinicians and clinical pathways and models
- Navigation and care coordination
- / Back office services

#### **Technology**

- / Al, teleheath, medical records, care coordination apps, and other solutions
- / Cross borders
  solutions with some
  legal barriers with
  scope of practice,
  licensure, and
  reimbursement

#### Data

- / Data used to ensure real time information for clinicians
- / Data to demonstrate resolute
- / Aggregation of data
- / Secondary use of data

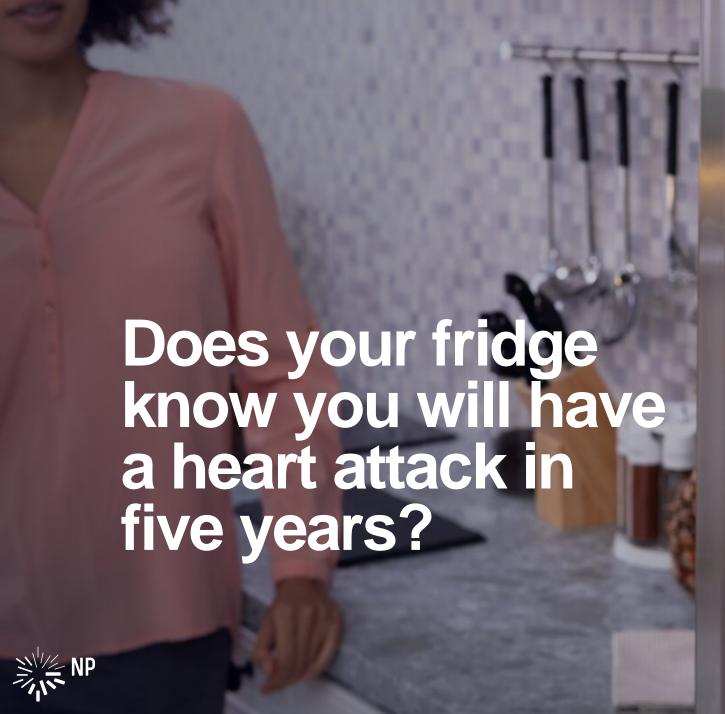
#### **Growth Strategy**

/ Management services/back office, payors, acquisitions, affiliations, staying independent, white label, investing in digital solutions, buy, sell, or own? What markets, across state lines, tri-state?



## WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON







### WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

Where do we head from here ...

Pandemic waivers. Stark and AKS changes. HIPAA.

#### **Market Considerations**

Cross state lines. M&A. VC Backed Efforts. Cash on hand. Reserves. .

#### **Cyber Threats**

Hackers. Ransomware. New fraud and abuse laws.

#### **Price Transparency & Quality**

Consumers can see scores and prices. Will it influence decisions of where to seek care?



#### **Health Equity**

New payment models. Legal claims. Data. Bias. Quality. SDOH.

#### Free the Data

Data as an asset. Al. Social network. Blocking Laws. Interoperability. Bias.

#### Commercializing

Selling what you know. Selling your tech. White label. Consult. Grow. IP Protection.

#### **Digital Health**

State law. Licensure. Reimbursement. Scope of practice.

## **TAKEAWAYS**

- / Technology drove positive changes and new risks during the pandemic
- / We don't want to leave others behind
- / Navigating the law is possible
- / Look to your organization, your department and yourself







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# Mew Hampshire telehealth Public Policy Summit

#### Q&A

Submit a question via the "Q&A" feature in the black toolbar located at the top or bottom of your screen.

## The State of Broadband Deployment in NH

with

Commissioner Taylor Caswell, Department of Business and Economic Affairs

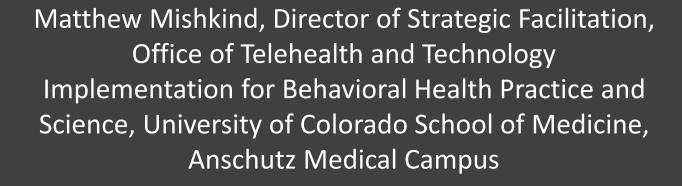


# Mew Hampshire telehealth Public Policy Summit

#### Q&A

Submit a question via the "Q&A" feature in the black toolbar located at the top or bottom of your screen.

#### with



Jessica Thackaberry, MD, Associate Clinical Professor, Lead for TeleMental Health and Psychiatry Informatics, University of California, San Diego

Michelle Turner, Vice President, Clinical Talent and Delivery, Hazel Health



# Mew Hampshire telehealth Public Policy Summit

#### Q&A

Submit a question via the "Q&A" feature in the black toolbar located at the top or bottom of your screen.

#### **NH Perspective on Telehealth**

#### with

Marguerite Corvini, Project Director, UNH Telehealth Practice Center & Adjunct Professor, UNH Social Work Department

Sarah Smith, DSc, OTR/L, Assistant Professor,
Department of Occupational Therapy, University
of New Hampshire

Jennifer Chadbourne, MS, RDN, LDN, CDCES, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of New Hampshire

Sajay Arthanat, Professor, Occupational Therapy,
University of New Hampshire



New
Hampshire
Perspective
on Telehealth





## **UNH Telehealth Practice Center**

Interdisciplinary center for telehealth learning and innovation

#### **Focus Areas**

- Community Engagement
- Student Learning and professional training
- Research and evaluation



## Departments

UNH Cooperative Extension

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Department of Health Management and Policy

Institute on Disability

UNH Institute for Health Policy and Practice

Department of Nutrition

Department of Nursing

Department of Occupational Therapy

Department of Psychology

Department of Social Work



## Upcoming offerings

- Upcoming Telehealth Workshop
- DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>
- Sign up

here: https://training.unh.edu/TelehealthWorkshop

#### Telehealth Workshop!

**Telehealth in Practice: A Virtual Workshop** 

December 12, 2022 10AM-12PM

**Register Here** 

Contact: <u>unh.telehealth@unh.edu</u>





This 2-hour virtual workshop will introduce key telehealth concepts with a sampling of material from the upcoming UNH Telehealth Certificate Course. The workshop will include the following topics:

- Telehealth etiquette
- Telehealth benefits, challenges and opportunities

#### Who Should Attend?

Health and allied health professionals who are interested in or currently practicing telehealth and seek to expand their knowledge and application of telehealth. These professions include, but are not limited to community health workers, dietitians, mental health counselors, nurses, occupational therapists, physicians, and more.

## Learn More about the <u>UNH Telehealth</u> <u>Certificate</u>

For continuing education information for soci work, nursing, physician, and physician assistants, please contact Laura Remick Iremick@nchcnh.org For other professional CEUs contact unh.telehealth@unh.edu



### **Presenters**



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Telehealth Utilization Strategies



## **The Space Between Visits**

Most chronic care management decisions are made <u>outside</u> of a provider's office





## **The Space Between Visits**

Most chronic care management decisions are made <u>outside</u> of a provider's office





## **The Space Between Visits**

Most chronic care management decisions are made outside of a provider's office

I woke up feeling ill. How do I adjust my diabetes care plan today?





I forgot my insulin at home. What do I eat for lunch?



My co-workers want to grab a drink after work. How do I participate without experiencing hyper or hypoglycemia?







My post-prandial blood glucose is 359 mg/dL. What should I do?



## Virtual Care Model: Person Centered Care

Access to a clinic team from anywhere

Health education and resources

Remote patient monitoring with integrated devices

Frequent touch models of care



## **Opportunity**

#### **Meet people where they are** *when they are there*

"Hi Amit, Great job completing a paired check with your breakfast! What are your thoughts on how that meal affected your blood sugar?"

"Hi Sasha, How did you treat the low blood sugar reading this morning?"



## Opportunity

Bring attention to what's working well

"Wow! I noticed you reached 20 hours in range yesterday. What worked well for you?"

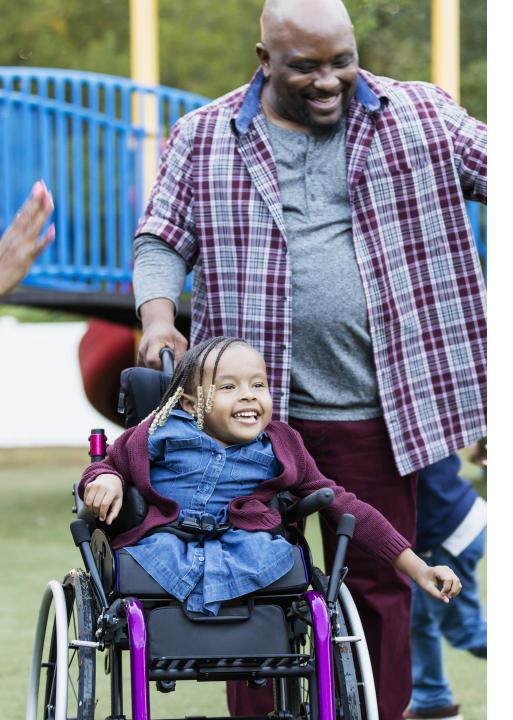




## **Healthy Families Research Program**

Sarah Smith, DSc, OTR/L

Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy



## Families of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN)

Almost 20% of child population in US (Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, 2020)

Families may need more robust health & community services (Coller et al., 2020)

More likely to experience unmet needs (Graaf et al., 2021)





## Family Activity Participation

Doing everyday activities

Promotes opportunities for family connection and collaboration

(Bonsall, 2014; Boyd et al., 2014)

Often requires intentional planning for member inclusion (Van keer et al., 2019)



## **Healthy Families Flourish Program**

#### **Purpose**

- Support family activity participation
- Promote family cohesion, adaptability, and communication

#### **Pilot Intervention**

- 11 NH families of children with special health care needs, parents and children
- 10 telehealth sessions via Zoom, 45-60 minutes each
- Welcome, Family Health topic, Strategizing toward goals
- Parent Coaching Principles



## Healthy Families Flourish Program cntd.

#### **Telehealth Measures**

- Telehealth Usability Questionnaire (Parmanto et al., 2016)
- Interview about telehealth experience (Wallisch et al., 2019)

#### **Family Measures**

- Family Adaptability & Cohesion Evaluation Scale (Olson et al., 2006)
- Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (Law et al., 2004)
- Goal Attainment Scaling (Kiresuk et al., 1994)



## **Telehealth Satisfaction Results**

Telehealth Usability Questionnaire Average Scores

- Useful (6.62)
- Easy to use (6.82)
- Effective (6.4)
- Reliable (5.18)
- Satisfactory (6.6)



# **Telehealth Satisfaction Interview Theme 1**

Convenience for our needs: To just be at home

"I think it's the convenience of it [telehealth], of not having to say OK, this was one more thing that I have to get up and get dressed for. I literally, I'm sitting here my pajamas. So, I think for me where my schedule is always different, I homeschool, I do therapies with my child, that it was more convenient for me to be able to just be at home. So I'd say the convenience of it and just the being in the environment of my own home."

Mother of CSHCN



# **Telehealth Satisfaction Interview Theme 2**

## **Enhanced Parent-Provider Communication: I can be me**

"This way, I am me. I feel like if I were in person, I would probably try to put a fake face on and always be on my game. And here, I feel like I'm in my house and I can be me. I don't have to fake anything. I can be who I am and you accept me. Not saying that if I were in person, you wouldn't accept me, but you wouldn't know that you wouldn't know me. I think that I would be a totally different person. I am totally different in-person. I'm funnier in person because I don't want people to know the real hard stuff in me. Here, I feel like I'm more me and I'm not going to put on a fake front." Mother of CSHCN



# **Telehealth Satisfaction Interview Theme 3**

## **Shared Involvement: Instead of Just One of Us**

Father: We're all involved. We can all attend. We all get the benefit of the therapist and so we all get to hear your message at the same time versus having us relay it to somebody else or trying to summarize what you said in the meeting and then trying to give that to somebody else later. It's not that it gets that distorted, but I mean, it's not the same message.

Mother: I definitely have left [therapy] sessions where they've said something to me and then I get home to tell my husband and I'm like, I don't remember what [the provider] told me.



# Measuring Telehealth Patient Satisfaction

Measure	Telehealth Areas Assessed	Items	Administration Time	Cost	Access
Telehealth Usability Questionnaire (Parmanto et al., 2016)	Usefulness, Ease of Use, Effectiveness, System Reliability, Satisfaction	21 items 1-7 agreement scale	5 minutes	Free	https://ux.hari.pitt.e du/v2/api/download/ TUQ_English.pdf
Telemedicine Satisfaction Questionnaire (TSQ) (Yip et al., 2003)	Quality of care, quality of virtual visit, interpersonal interactions	14 items 4 point Scale  1 (poor) 2 (fair) 3 (good) 4 (excellent)	5 minutes	Free	https://journals.sage pub.com/doi/10.125 8/135763303321159 693

Hajesmaeel-Gohari, S., Bahaadinbeigy, K. The most used questionnaires for evaluating telemedicine services. *BMC Med Inform Decis Mak* **21**, 36 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12911-021-01407-y



# FUTURE OF HOME HEALTH AND AGING-IN-PLACE: FROM TELEPRESENCE TO AI-BASED ROBOTS

SAJAY ARTHANAT, PHD., OTR/L., ATP

**PROFESSOR** 

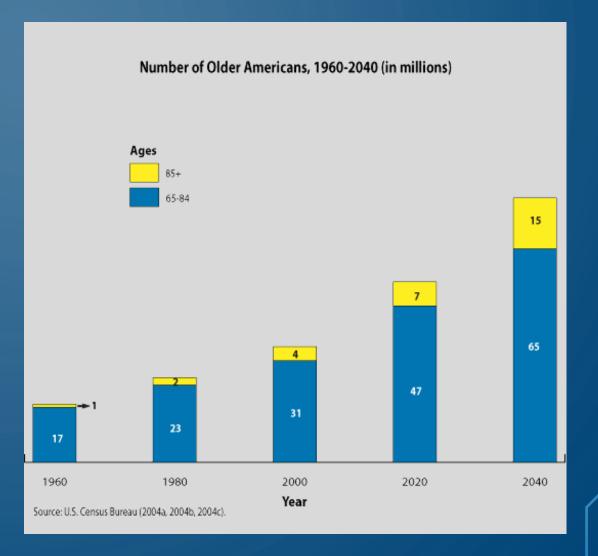
DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



# AGING DEMOGRAPHICS

- Older adult population in the US to grow from 55 million to 80 million by 2040
- NH, ME & VT are among the leading states with highest percentage (43%, 63% & 65% respectively) with vast majority in rural regions



# HOME HEALTH & AGING IN PLACE

- 75-90% of older adults wish to age in place (AARP)
- Avg. Monthly cost of supervised living is staggering (Genworth, Inc)
  - Assisted Living- \$4,500
  - Nursing home- \$7,800-\$9,000
- 33% projected shortage in home health aides in NNE region (Alz. Association)
- How do we fill the gap?

# ROBOTS & AGING



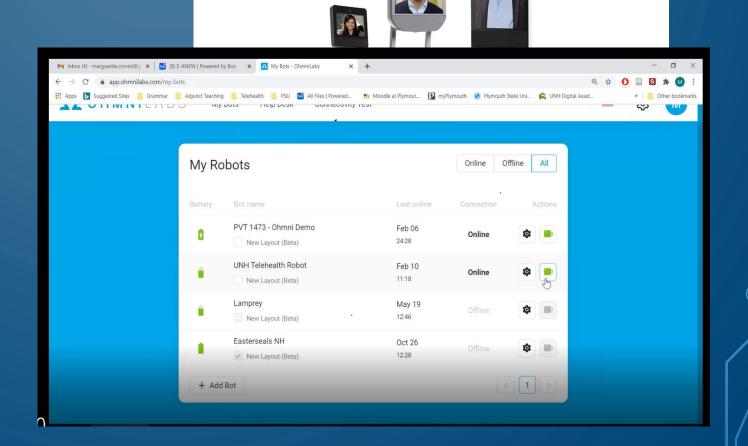
Future of Care (What can robots do?)

- Offer companionship
- Help engage the person in routines
- Safety and emergency response
- Remain linked with the care partner or family

Facilitate Telehealth?

# TELEPRESENCE ROBOTS

- Remotely operated
- Some have autonomous capabilities
- Offers "virtual meeting on wheels"
- Controlled through a dashboard



# PILOT STUDY ON TELEPRESENCE ROBOTS

- Initiated during COVID-19 at a retirement facility in the NH Seacoast area
- To examine facilitators and barriers to implementation
- Student-led intervention/training sessions on wellness, fall prevention and technology [3 in-person and 3 robot-assisted]
- Included "ambassadors" at the facility to facilitate the meetings
- Interviews with all stakeholders following the protocol

# **FINDINGS**

Residents

Ideation
"Maxine is a lovely person; I feel very comfortable around her"

Familiarity
"I was a little nervous at first (regarding Maxine's movements), and then I became very comfortable with it"

Digital Divide

"Technology is so sped up you think 'oh hey I got this', but nope, you don't"

"The availability of it being here made it easy, I didn't have to go anywhere, drive, park, just had to be here at whatever time"

## Acceptance

""Maxine worked for the intended purposes, but I would still prefer in person""

# **FINDINGS**

Trainers, Ambassadors, and Staff

Role Identity
"I would like it if there
were a little more
involvement on our
part" [A]

## **Applications**

""I think there are a ton of opportunities. Doctors' appointments, providers being able to see the residents' home, social connections, attending social events, touring, guest speakers/lecturers" [S]

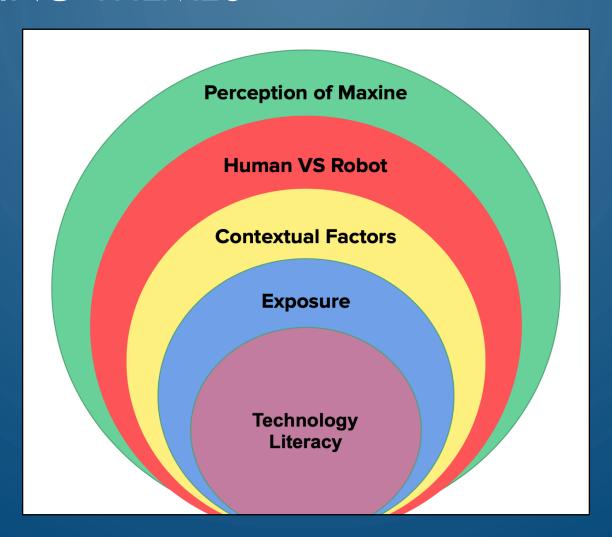
## Connectivity

"Each time I took her to an apartment there would be a disconnect and I would have to reconnect." "Still loses connection in elevators and loses connectivity" [A]

## <u>Usability</u>

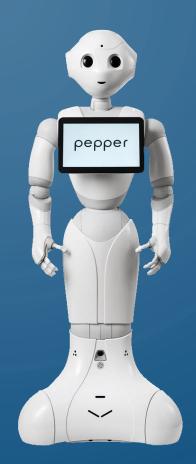
""I think that the clients
and participants really
appreciated the
intervention nevertheless
(despite tech
malfunctions)" [T]

# CONCLUDING THEMES



# PROGRAMMABLE ROBOTS

- Platforms to develop autonomous robots
- Employs Robot Operating System (ROS) for programming
- Potential to create custom care protocols

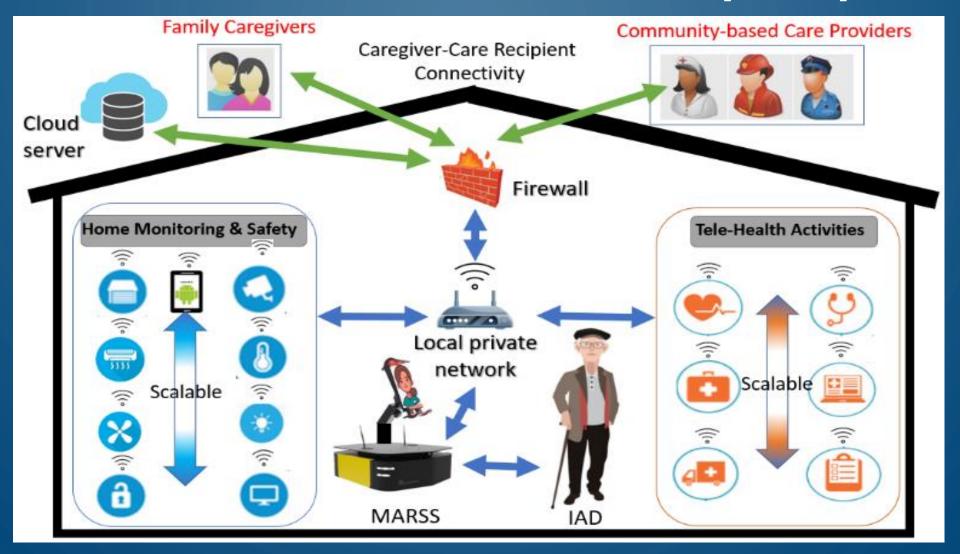






Clearpath Robotics, Generation Robots, Softbank Robotics

## MOBILE ASSISTIVE ROBOT WITH SMART SENSING [MARSS]



# MARSS- CARE PROTOCOL FROM FEASIBILITY STUDY

Figure 2: Flowchart of the SAR Protocols

Figure 2a: Reminder- Medication intake at 8 am

( )				
	Care Recipient (CR)	<u>IoT-Motion Sensor</u>	<u>SAR</u>	<u>Caregiver</u>
Scenario 1	Medication taken at 8 am	Motion detected at 8 am	No Action Needed	No Action Needed
Scenario 2	Medication not taken by 8.05 am	No motion detected at 8.05 am	-Drive to the CR -Identify CR -Play an automated message reminder -Guide the CR to the medication bottle	No Action Needed
Scenario 3	Ignores automated reminder	No motion detected at 8.10 am	-Drive to the CR -Identify CR - Play a pre- recorded video reminder by the caregiver -Guide the CR to the medication bottle	No Action Needed
Scenario 4	Ignores pre- recorded video reminder	No motion detected at 8.15 am	-Drive to the CR -Identify CR -Call the caregiver on video	Remind the CR and ensure the medication is taken

DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY https://doi.org/10.1080/17483107.2020.1753831



## ARTICLE



Caregiver perspectives on a smart home-based socially assistive robot for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia

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### ARSTRACT

Purpose: Innovative assistive technology can address aging-in-place and caregiving needs of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia (ADRD). The purpose of this study was to beta-test a novel socially assistive robot (SAR) with a cohort of ADRD caregivers and gather their perspectives on its potential integration in the home context.

Methods: The SAR involved a programmable research robot linked with commercially available Internet of things sensors to receive and respond to care recipient's behaviour. Eight caregivers observed the SAR perform two care protocols concerning the care recipient's daily routine and home safety, and then participated in a focus group and phone interview. The researchers used grounded theory and the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology as a framework to gather and analyse the data.

Results: The caregivers' asserted the potential of the SAR to relieve care burden and envisioned it as a next-generation technology for caregivers. Adoption of the SAR, as an identified theme, was subject to the SAR's navigability, care recipient engagement, adaptability, humanoid features, and interface design. In contrast, barriers leading to potential rejection were technological complexity, system failure, exasperation of burden, and failure to address digital divide.

Conclusion: From a broader outlook, success of SARs as a home-health technology for ADRD is reliant on the timing of their integration, commercial viability, funding provisions, and their bonding with the care recipient. Long-term research in the home settings is required to verify the usability and impact of SARs in mediating aging-in-place of individuals with ADRD.

## ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 17 January 2020 Revised 5 April 2020 Accepted 6 April 2020

## KEYWORD

Socially assistive robot; assistive robotics; Alzheimer's disease; dementia; smart home; internet of things; agingin-place



# FUTURE OUTLOOK OF ASSISTIVE ROBOTS

Severe Impairment

Deep Learning

Artificially Intelligent

Low-Tech / Simple Reactive

Remotely Controlled

Hard Coded

Mild Impairment

High-Tech / Futuristic Proactive

# Thanks / Questions

Acknowledgement & Thanks:

**UNH-** Occupational Therapy Students

UNH- Center for Aging & Community Living



For Information:

Sajay.arthanat@unh.edu





# Questions?



# References

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# Mew Hampshire telehealth Public Policy Summit

## Q&A

Submit a question via the "Q&A" feature in the black toolbar located at the top or bottom of your screen.



# Telehealth Policy Developments: New England States and Federal

with

Reid Plimpton, MPH, Program Manager, Northeast Telehealth Resource Center



The NCTRC is dedicated to building sustainable telehealth programs and improving health outcomes for rural and underserved communities.

Reid Plimpton, MPH
Program Manager- Northeast Telehealth Resource Center
(www.netrc.org)



# **Northeast Telehealth Resource Center**







## **Disclosures and Acknowledgements:**

- Any information provided by NETRC is for educational purposes only and should not be regarded as legal advice.
- Neither NETRC or Reid have any financial interest, arrangement, or affiliation with any organizations related to telehealth commercial products or services

NETRC is made possible by cooperative agreement 1 U1UTH42523-01-00 from the <u>Federal Office for the Advancement of Telehealth</u>, Health Resources and Services Administration, DHHS.

## **About Us:**

NETRC aims to increase access to quality health care services for rural and medically underserved populations through telehealth. We serve New England and New York, and are a proud member of the National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers.

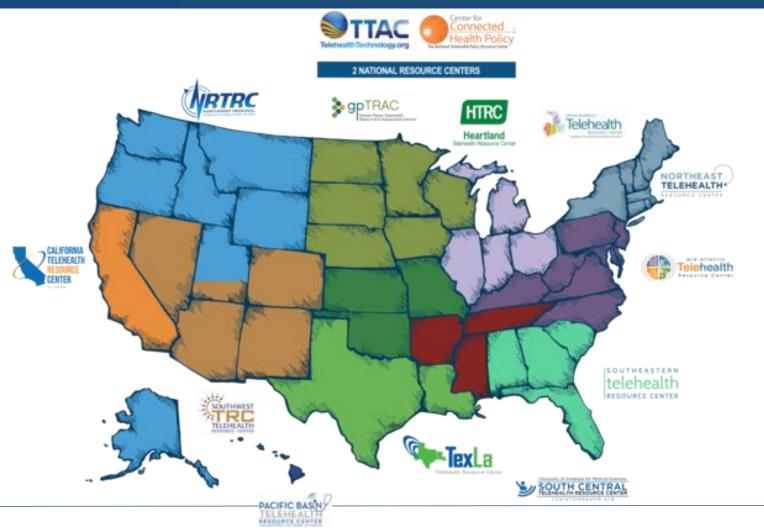
## **Our Mission**

Foster the use of telehealth technologies to provide health care information and education for health care providers who serve rural and medically underserved areas and populations.

## **Our Aim**

Connecting rural communities and helping them overcome geographic barriers to receive quality healthcare services.









# Key Policy Changes During PHE

Medicare	During PHE	
Geographic Limit	Waived	
Site Limitation	Waived	
Eligible Provider List	Expanded	
Eligible Services	Expanded (80 addtl codes)	
Visit Limits	Waived certain limits	
Modality	Live video, Phone for some services	
Supervision	Relaxed – allowing via video	
Licensing	Relaxed requirements	
Tech-enabled/Comm based	More codes eligible for phone & addtl. providers allowed	

-	DEA: Prescribing exception - allowing phone for suboxone
	for Opioid Use Disorder

State Medicaid	During PHE
Modality	Phone allowed
Location	Home allowed
Consent	Consent requirements relaxed
Eligible Services	Additional types of services eligible
Eligible Providers	Additional provider types allowed (OT, PT, SLP, etc)
Licensing	Some requirements waived

- State Exec. Orders for private payers range from explicit mandates to encouragement to expand telehealth coverage
- Relaxed some health information protections
- HIPAA: Office of Civil Rights will not fine during PHE Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers

# CMS PFS 2022

- <a href="https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/calendar-year-cy-2023-medicare-physician-fee-schedule-final-rule">https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/calendar-year-cy-2023-medicare-physician-fee-schedule-final-rule</a>
- https://www.cchpca.org/resources/proposed-physician-fee-schedule-pfs-cy-2023/
- https://www.foley.com/en/insights/publications/2022/11/2023-medicarephysician-fee-schedule-access



Anticipated key dates:

Oct. 13, 2022
PHE Waiver
Extended
until January 11, 2023
Link

Nov. 12, 2022

White House did

not give 60 day

notice of end of PHE

April 11, 2022
Likely new PHE
Expiration Date
Telehealth flexibilities extend
151 days after end of PHE\*



\*Established by Consolidated Appropriations Act, Signed March 2022

## **Anticipated** key dates:

December 2022
CMS releases final
CY23 PFS

PHE still in effect



Jan. 1, 2023
CY23 PFS Effective
PHE still in effect



## **CORRECTED** key dates:

Nov. 2, 2022

CMS released final CY23 PFS

PHE still in effect

See Announcement



Jan. 1, 2023 CY23 PFS Effective

PHE still in effect



<u>List of Telehealth Services for Calendar Year 2023 (ZIP)</u> – Updated 11/02/2022

https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-general-information/telehealth/telehealth-codes

## **Anticipated** key dates:

April 11, 2023
PHE may end and
151 day telehealth
waiver extension
begins



April 11, 2023
HIPAA waiver ends
Providers must use HIPAA
secure, BAA-covered video
platform



## Anticipated key dates:

September
2023
151 Day flexibilities
extension ends
PFS CY23 rules now apply but

some PHE codes remain in



Dec. 31, 2023

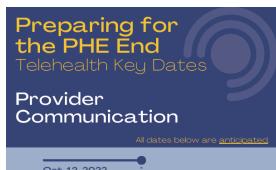
Last remaining telehealth waiver codes expire

PFS CY24 goes live tomorrow



effect\*

\*See CY2023 List of Telehealth Services



## Oct. 13, 2022 **PHE Waiver** Extension PHE extended

until Jan. 11, 2023. Let your providers know you are on top of this and will keep them posted!

## Nov. 12, 2022 White House Notification of PHE End

Providers may be worried this means the end of telemedicine-remind them of the 151-day extension!

## the home for Medicare pts. Jan. 1, 2023 PFS CY23 Effective

Providers unsure if this means

telehealth is still permissible in

December 2022

CMS Releases

PFS CY23 Final

Send a memo!

What does this mean? Reassure providers that home is a Medicare-covered service under the waiver AND of the 151-day extension. Give them a heads up about any modifiers or workflow changes.

## Jan. 11. 2023 PHE ends -151-Day Flexibilities Begin

Reassure providers that nothing changes right now except perhaps their video platform. Double check your allowable Medicare provider

## June 2023 151-Dau Flexibilities

PFS CY23 rules now apply but some PHE codes remain in effect.

## Jan. 11. 2023 HIPAA Waiver

Providers must use HIPAA secure, BAA covered video platforms and patient

## Dec. 31, 2023

Last remaining telehealth waiver codes expire. PFS CY24 goes live tomorrow.

New NCTRC Collection: "Preparing for the end of the PHE"

1<sup>st</sup> Resource and Blog Post now available!

https://telehealthresourcecenter.org/news/preparing-for-the-end-of-the-pheprovider-communication/

The information and tools presented on the National Consortium o legal advice or interpretation of laws, regulations and policies. NCTRC is strongly encourages you to check with the appropriate state agency or other applicable authority for further information and direction and to seek the advice of legal counsel if you are in need of a legal oninion

# What to do next:

- Develop your communications plan.
- Draft brief communications language based on key dates, and get it approved if needed.
- Identify vehicles for communications.
- Set your calendar reminders!
- Be ready to change both the communications and calendars should key dates or legislation shift.
- Stay tuned to: <a href="https://telehealthresourcecenter.org/news/">https://telehealthresourcecenter.org/news/</a>



# **Moving Forward: Federal Policy**

# Well Over 100 Telehealth Related Bills – see CCHP's <u>Federal Policy Tracker</u> for Details and Status of Pending Legislation and Regulation

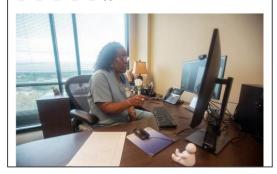
CONNECT Act (re-introduced)

 would remove longstanding barriers to telehealth and promotes program integrity. See CCHP CONNECT Fact Sheet.

## Biden Administration Seeks to Expand Telehealth in Rural America

New funding will allow more medical appointments to take place via video in rural communities, where some of the nation's oldest and sickest patients live.





(re-introduced) - bill would require several federal entities to study all of the telehealth actions taken

during the PHE.

TH Modernization Act — would remove originating/geographic site restrictions give HHS secretary authority to expand provider types; allow TH to meet faceto-face requirements for hospice care and home dialysis, enable CMS to continue to use sub-regulatory authority to add telehealth services; extend FQHC and RHCs distant site ability

Patients and doctors who embraced telehealth during the pandemic fear it will become harder to access



In 2022, trend toward extension of policy flexibilities and allowing more time to study affects vs. permanent change

S. 3593: Telehealth Extension and Evaluation Act (new Feb '22) – would amends titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend certain telehealth services covered by Medicare and to evaluate the impact of telehealth services on Medicare beneficiaries. Key areas include FQHCs/RHCs, CAHs and Prescribing.

## Legal and Regulatory Factors to Consider\*

Licensure

.....

- Malpractice
- Informed Consent
- Documentation
- Insurance Coverage and Billing
- Privacy & Security (HIPAA)

\*For educational purposes only. The Northeast Telehealth Resource Center recommends that providers should consult with legal counsel before launching a telehealth service.

## CCHP Updates



STATE	MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT				PRIVATE PAYER LAW		PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS	
	CINE AIDED	STORE AND FORWARD	HEMOTE PATIENT MONITORING	AUDIO-ONLY	LAW EXSTS	PRYMENT PARTY	INTERSTATE COMPACTS (NO No.)	CONSENT
ALABAMA	0	0	0	0	0	0	ASLP-IC, CC, EMS, IMLC, NLC, OT, PSY, PTC	0
ALASKA	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
ARIZONA	0	0	0	0	0	0	IMIC, NIC, OT, PSY, PTC	0
ARKANSAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	NLC, PSK PTC	0
CALIFORNIA	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
COLORADO	0	0	0	0	0	0	ASLP-IC, CC, EMS, IMLC, NLC, OT, PSX, PTC	0
CONNECTICUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	IMLC, PSY	0
DELAWARE	0	0	٥	0	0	0	APRN, ASLP-IC, CC, EMS, IMLC, NLC, OT, PSY, PTC	0
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	IMIC, PSY, PTC	0
FLORIDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	CC, NLC	0
CEORGIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	ASLP-IC, CC, EMS, IMLC, NLC, OT, PSY, PTC	0
HAWAII	0	0	. O.	0	0	0	14	0
DANO	0	0	0	0	0	0	ASLP-IC, EMS,	0

- CCHP Continues to monitor the State level efforts and updates their documents regularly:
- https://www.cchpca.org/policy-trends/
- Regional Legislation and Regulation Tracker here:

https://track.govhawk.com/reports/2zV8Y/public



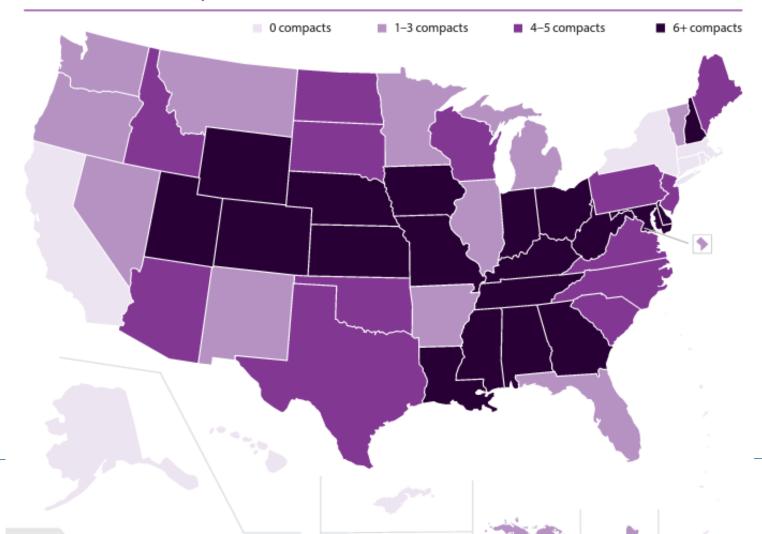
# Legal and Regulatory Factors to Consider\*

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\*For educational purposes only. The Northeast Telehealth Resource Center recommends that providers should consult with legal counsel before launching a telehealth service.

## Licensure Compacts

#### Interstate Licensure Compacts







Legislatively enacted agreement among states

# What is an Interstate Compact?



Cooperatively addresses shared problems



Versatile and proven policy tool

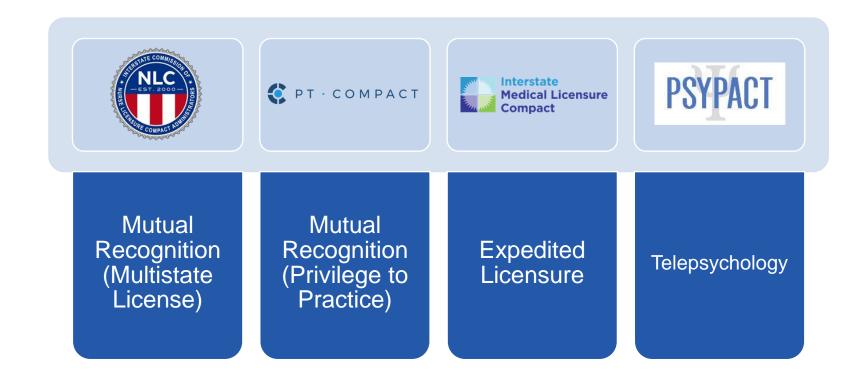


Applicable across policy areas, including occupational licensure





### **Interstate Compact Models**





# Operationalized Licensure Compacts

- Emergency Medical Services Personnel
- Nurses
- Psychologists
- Physical Therapists
- Physicians

# Compacts Available to States

- Advanced Practice Registered
   Nurses
- Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
- Counseling
- Occupational Therapy

# Compacts Under Development

- Cosmetology
- Dentistry and Dental Hygiene
- Dieticians and Nutritionists
- Massage Therapy
- PhysiciansAssistants/Associates
- School Psychology
- Social Work
- Teaching

## **Current Licensure Compacts**

**Interstate Medical Licensure Compact** 

- 39 states

Nurse Licensure Compact

- 39 states

Physical Therapy Compact

- 34 states

Psychologists Compact

- 34 states

Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact

- 23 states

**Emergency Medical Services Compact** 

- 22 states

Occupational Therapy Compact

- 22 states

**Counseling Compact** 

- 17 states

Advanced Practice
Registered Nurse
Compact

- 3 states



## Compacts Resources

- Council of State Governments, National Center for Interstate Licensure (NCIC)
- https://compacts.csg.org/
- <a href="https://compacts.csg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Compact-Resource-Guide-1-1.pdf">https://compacts.csg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Compact-Resource-Guide-1-1.pdf</a>
- https://compacts.csg.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/11/OL Compacts InAction Update APR 2020-3.pdf



# **Emergency Broadband Benefit Program -> Affordable Connectivity Program**

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a <u>Federal Communications</u> <u>Commission (FCC) program</u> that replaces the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program) to help low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices.

If a household is <u>eligible</u>, you can receive:

Up to a \$30/month discount on your internet service

Up to a \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands

A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop
computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per
household. To receive the connected device discount, consumers need to
enroll in the ACP with a <u>participating provider that offers connected</u>
devices (Note: not all internet company offer device discounts.) The
internet company will provide the discount to the consumer.

Learn More at: <a href="https://acpbenefit.org/">https://acpbenefit.org/</a>

# Additional ISP's added +POTUS Public Support/Announcement (5/10/22)

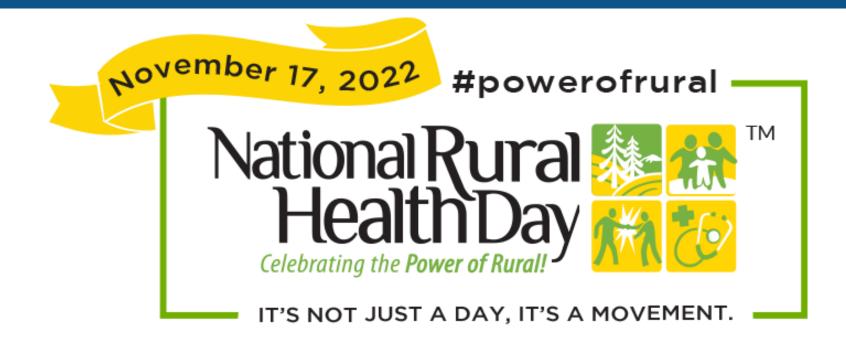
"the Biden-Harris Administration has secured commitments from 20 leading internet providers to offer ACP-eligible households a high-speed internet plan for no more than \$30 per month."

https://www.whitehouse.gov/getinternet/?
utm source=getinternet.gov

https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/no-home-left-offline/ NEW USEFUL RESOURCE FOR CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND PATIENTS



## National Rural Health Day 2022



https://www.powerofrural.org/promotional-toolkit/



Want to Learn More?



Danielle Louder
Program Director, NETRC
Co-Director, MCD Public Health
Email: <a href="mailto:DLouder@mcdph.org">DLouder@mcdph.org</a>





Reid Plimpton, MPH
Program Manager, NETRC
Email: Rplimpton@mcdph.org





### **General TH Resources**

- Telehealth.HHS.gov
- National Telehealth Resource Center website
- Telehealth Technology Assessment Center (TTAC)
  - Telehealth Toolkits
  - Telehealth and Telemedicine for Public Health Video
- MATRC Telehealth Resources for COVID-19
- NRTRC Quick Start Guide to Telehealth
- CMS General Provider Telehealth & Telemedicine Toolkit
- AMA: A Physician's Guide to COVID-19
- FAIR Health: Monthly Telehealth Regional Tracker

Customized Toolkits, Guides, Trainings, etc.



## Resources: ADA and Accessible Care

#### **ADA National Network** 1-800-949-4232 (voice/TTY/relay)

- Information, guidance and training to "make it possible for everyone with a disability to live a life of freedom and equality."
- Customized <u>regional and national trainings</u> on the ADA
- Accessible Health Care www.adata.org/factsheet/accessible-health-care
- Health Care and the ADA www.adata.org/factsheet/health-care-and-ada
- ADANN Webinar Series: Health Care and the ADA Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities www.adapresentations.org/healthcare/schedule.php
- National Assistive Technology Act TA and Training Center (AT3) -<a href="https://at3center.net/">https://at3center.net/</a>

## Patient/Consumer Resources

TIPS for a Successful Telehealth Session

Did you know that spor of American Annual An

What to Expect From a

HHS Telehealth Webpage for Patients/Consumers: <a href="https://telehealth.hhs.gov/patients/">https://telehealth.hhs.gov/patients/</a>

TRC and Other Consumer Resources: <u>How Patients Can Engage Telehealth</u>, <u>Tips to Keep Your Telehealth Visit Private</u>, <u>Downloadable Tech Guides</u>, <u>Virtual Healthcare for Patients/Consumers</u>, <u>How to Prepare for a Video Visit with Your Mental Health Provider</u>

#### **Devices/Connectivity:**

FCC <u>LifeLine Program</u> and FCC <u>Affordable Connectivity Program</u> - provides devices and subsidies on monthly voice and data fees for low income consumers and those impacted significantly by COVID-19. There are eligibility requirements (see webpages) and an application process.

<u>National Digital Equity Center</u> - provides communities at all levels the expertise needed to mobilize broadband technologies through digital inclusion, literacy efforts, education, resource planning,

funding research, infrastructure leveraging and stakeholder engagement

<u>National Digital Inclusion Alliance</u> - advances digital equity by supporting community programs and equipping policymakers to act

## **Policy and Reimbursement Resources**

#### **Center for Connected Health Policy**

- CCHP Video Learning Series: Telehealth Policy 101, 201 & 301
- State Policy Finder Tool
- Billing For Telehealth Encounters CCHP 2022 Updated Guide on Fee-for-Service



- Medicare Telemedicine Health Care Provider Fact Sheet
- Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Telehealth Services Booklet Updated June, 2021
- Medicare Covered Telehealth Services CY2022

#### Office of Civil Rights and HHS

- Guidance on How the HIPAA Rules Permit Health Plans and Covered Health Care Providers to Use Remote Communication Technologies for Audio-Only Telehealth
- <u>Guidance on Nondiscrimination in Telehealth: Federal Protections to Ensure Accessibility to People with</u>
  <u>Disabilities and Limited English Proficient Persons</u>



## **Policy and Reimbursement Resources**

# OIG – New and upcoming reports on fraud/misuse of telehealth in Medicare program

OIG Report on Program Integrity Risk in Medicare Telehealth Billing during First Year of COVID

#### **DEA COVID-19 Information Page**

#### SAMHSA COVID-19 Page

- Telehealth for the Treatment of Serious Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders
- CCBHCs Using Telehealth or Telemedicine

#### <u>Federation of State Medical Boards – Board by Board Review</u>

U.S. States and Territories Modifying Requirements for Telehealth in Response to COVID-19



### Telebehavioral Health and SUD Resources

- HHS Best Practice Guide: Tele-treatment for substance use disorders
- Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC) Telebehavioral Health Center of Excellence (TBHCOE): <a href="https://tbhcoe.matrc.org/">https://tbhcoe.matrc.org/</a>
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)- Ask Suicide Screening Questions (ASQ)
   Model <a href="https://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/research-conducted-at-nimh/asq-toolkit-materials/index.shtml#resource">https://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/research-conducted-at-nimh/asq-toolkit-materials/index.shtml#resource</a>; NIH ASQ <a href="https://example.com/Patient-Resource-List">Patient Resource List</a>.
- Center of Excellence for Integrated Health Solutions (Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
   Operated by the National Council for Behavioral Health)
   <a href="https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/integrated-health-coe/resources/">https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/integrated-health-coe/resources/</a>
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)- Mental health Training for Providers <a href="https://www.nami.org/Support-Education/Mental-Health-Education/NAMI-Provider">https://www.nami.org/Support-Education/Mental-Health-Education/NAMI-Provider</a>

### **Telebehavioral Health Resources**

- US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Using Telehealth to Expand Access to Essential Health Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/telehealth.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/telehealth.html</a>
- Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) White Paper: <a href="https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/telemedicine-and-pregnancy-care/">https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/telemedicine-and-pregnancy-care/</a>
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCH)- MCH Navigator Online Training: <a href="https://mchb.hrsa.gov/training/mch-navigator-description.asp">https://mchb.hrsa.gov/training/mch-navigator-description.asp</a>
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) Treating Suicidal Patients During COVID-19: Best Practices and Telehealth <a href="https://www.sprc.org/events-trainings/treating-suicidal-patients-during-covid-19-best-practices-telehealth">https://www.sprc.org/events-trainings/treating-suicidal-patients-during-covid-19-best-practices-telehealth</a>
- Search the <u>NETRC Telehealth Resource Library</u> for additional resources!



#### Q&A

Submit a question via the "Q&A" feature in the black toolbar located at the top or bottom of your screen.

# Thank you for joining us!

A recording of this webinar will be made available to NH Telehealth Alliance members.

