



October 2014

Dear Colleagues,

Did you attend the NETRC Regional Telehealth Conference on October 1? We were thrilled to host over 100 health care leaders and telehealth experts from the Northeast in Burlington, VT with Fletcher Allen Health Care and the University of Vermont! Attendees included representatives from Federally Qualified Health Centers, Critical Access Hospitals, Rural Health Centers, Community Mental Health Centers, and others.



This year's topic was *Leveraging Telehealth to Achieve the Triple Aim*. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement's [Triple Aim](#) seeks to optimize health system performance by pursuing three dimensions: improving the patient experience (including quality and satisfaction); improving the health of populations; and reducing the per capita cost of health care. David A.V. Reynolds, Dr.PH, expert Health Policy Advisor and Analyst, presented the keynote address, [The Triple Aim and Rural Health: So What's New?](#) Presentations from other speakers are also available [here](#).

We hope to see you at some of the other great events this fall, including the [Second Annual Northern New England Telehealth Summit](#) and the American Public Health Association's [Annual Meeting and Exposition](#). Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions by email (netrc@mcdph.org) or by phone (1-800-379-2021).

Sincerely,

The NETRC Team

Please be sure to visit our website for telehealth resources, news, upcoming events, and

Featured Regional Event

[Northern New England Telehealth Summit](#)

Presented by: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Center for Telehealth

Date: November 4 & 5, 2014 (registration deadline October 22)

much more:
www.netrc.org

Grant Opportunities

NIH Funding
mHealth Tools for Underserved Populations with Chronic Conditions to Promote Effective Patient-Provider Communication, Adherence to Treatment and Self-Management

[PA-14-180](#)
(R01 Research Project Grant)

[PA-14-181](#)
(R21 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant)

The purpose of this initiative is to stimulate research utilizing Mobile Health (mHealth) tools aimed at the improvement of effective patient-provider communication, adherence to treatment and self-management of chronic diseases in underserved populations.

HRSA Funding
Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program

ORHP's Outreach Program is a community-based program targeted to improve

Location: Mill Falls at the Lake in Meredith, NH

Participants will learn about telehealth models and programs in the region; hear regional and national experts in the field; identify regional opportunities for collaboration; discuss legal, regulatory, reimbursement, and legislative advancements and barriers; engage in clinician networking and discussion of provider pools; and share expertise around the promising future of telehealth technologies in Northern New England.



Additional Conferences

[Partner's Center for Connected Health Symposium-Connected Health in Practice](#)

Seaport Hotel & World Trade Center, Boston, MA
October 23-24, 2014

[American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting & Exposition](#)

New Orleans, LA
November 15-19, 2014

Upcoming Webinars and Lectures

[Comprehensive Telemedicine Implementation: A Practical Approach](#)

National Telehealth Webinar Series
Sponsored by the TexLa Telehealth Resource Center
Kim Dunn, MD, CEO, Your Doctors Program, L.P., Houston, TX
Thursday, October 16, 2014, 2:00 PM EDT

[Pace University: Fall 2014 Seidenberg Seminar Series](#)

Dr. Pramod Gaur moderates panel discussions of leading experts & practitioners from a spectrum of healthcare stakeholders on business challenges & opportunities in healthcare IT.

Locations:
White Plains, NY (In-Person Presentation)
1 Martine Avenue, White Plains, NY
Fifth Floor, Room GC 509/511

New York City (Video-Conferencing)
One Pace Plaza, NYC, NY
Third Floor, East Wing Room E319

outreach and service delivery in local and regional rural communities. The goals for the Outreach Program are the following:

1. Expand the delivery of health care services to include new and enhanced services exclusively in rural communities
2. Deliver health care services through a strong consortium, in which every consortium member organization is actively involved and engaged in the planning and delivery of services
3. Utilize and/or adapt an evidence-based or promising practice model(s) in the delivery of health care services
4. Improve population health, demonstrate health outcomes and sustainability.

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming Lectures:

Health Technology Law and Regulations: Legal and Regulatory Challenges in Connected Healthcare Services and Delivery
October 16, 2014, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM EDT

Healthcare Delivery Using Technologies: Developments and Trends Driving Technology Supported Care and Services
October 30, 2014, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM EDT

Delivering New Models of Care: Diverse Perspectives Across the Healthcare Provider Spectrum
November 13, 2014, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM EST

Please RSVP for these complimentary lectures

RECENT TELEHEALTH NEWS

Content compiled by: Michael Edwards - Consultant to the NETRC

Telehealth Policy News

[Lawmakers urged to expand Medicare coverage of telehealth](#)

iHealthBeat, October 1, 2014

A coalition of 13 health care advocacy groups has sent a letter to the House Energy and Commerce Committee calling on lawmakers to increase Medicare coverage for telehealth services under the panel's "21st Century Cures" initiative. For support, they request a Congressional Budget Office analysis of the costs and benefits of such expanded coverage.

[House bill would boost telehealth for ACOs](#)

Fierce Health IT, September 29, 2014

A new bill introduced in the U.S. House would boost Accountable Care Organizations' flexibility to use telehealth and remote patient monitoring and provide for their reimbursement. The ACO Improvement Act (H.R. 5558) is sponsored by Tennessee's Rep. Diane Black and Vermont's Peter Welch.

[Coverage, reimbursement remain barriers to telehealth use, health industry leaders testify](#)

Fierce Health IT, September 17, 2014

Coverage and reimbursement of telehealth, especially for Medicaid and Medicare, was the main topic of a recent roundtable discussion held by the U.S. Senate Special Commission on Aging. An AMA Board of Trustees member and the executive director for the Institute for e-Health Policy spoke on the constraint to telemedicine posed by Medicare reimbursement policies, and an administrator with Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services expressed a willingness to work with Congress to address needed changes through legislation

News on the Practice of Telemedicine

[Telemonitoring reduces readmissions 44 percent in 4-year, 500-patient study](#)

MobiHealth News, Oct. 3, 2014

A new study from Pennsylvania hospital system Geisinger Health Plan shows that remote monitoring of congestive heart failure patients can reduce readmissions by 38 to 44 percent and produce a return on investment of \$3.30 on the dollar.

[Facilities receive grants to grow resources for telehealth](#)

Fierce Health IT, September 29, 2014

More than 100 organizations in 42 states recently received notice of grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration to support care in rural areas. Included in the funding wave are awards to six sites to develop telemedicine networks for emergency medicine, Telehealth Resource Center awards for NETRC in Maine and its Mid-Atlantic counterpart, and awards for Rural Health Network Development projects, some of which include telehealth strategies.

[Put me in, coach! There's a new player on the field at Dartmouth](#)

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Center for Telehealth News, September 18, 2014

As part of a new partnership between Dartmouth-Hitchcock's Center for Telehealth and Dartmouth's Department of Athletics and Recreation, a telemedicine robot will be on the sidelines for home football games this fall. The VGo robot, along with integrated tablet and smartphone devices, will be used to facilitate remote concussion assessments by specialists.

[Telehealth: the best care, in the right place, at the right time](#)

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Center for Telehealth News, September 9, 2014

A wide-ranging interview the Director of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Center for Telehealth, Sarah Pletcher, highlights recent success in obtaining major federal grants to capitalize network development throughout New Hampshire and large areas of Vermont and in the implementation of several telemedicine services. Networked sites include hospitals, primary care clinics, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and behavioral health centers; clinical applications include telemedicine delivery of dermatology, rheumatology, dialysis monitoring, psychiatry, stroke care.

Telemedicine Technology News

[Wearable technology and health apps: our future healthcare, coming soon](#)

High50 Health, Sept. 29, 2014

The revolution in personal health monitors and mobile technology is projected to continue to the point of revolutionizing health care within the next ten years. Promising examples under development are highlighted, from wearables such as smart shirts, socks, and contact lenses to a fridge that records your nutritional intake.

[23 notable FDA clearances for digital health apps, devices so far this year](#)

Mobihealth News, Sept. 24, 2014

Summaries of FDA clearances for smartphone-connected medical devices and standalone apps for 2014 reveal some promising and diverse innovations. Cardiology applications were the most numerous with seven device approvals, followed by remote monitoring apps.

[Verizon, Ginger.io help pilot mobile intervention for high-cost Medicaid patients](#)

MobiHealth News, Sept. 18, 2014

Verizon has teamed up with smartphone health monitoring startup Ginger.io in a pilot conceived and run by Centerstone Research Institute to create a mobile health intervention for patients with both mental health disorders and chronic medical conditions. In a pilot study, the monitoring system and connectivity to a support team looks promising for reducing hospitalizations and improving chronic disease self-management.

Health Information Technology News

[How mHealth and data integration impact patient engagement](#)

Fierce Mobile Healthcare, Oct. 2, 2014

This story highlights efforts to integrate data from mobile health applications with a patient's electronic health record (EHR). An example from Chicago-based Northwestern Medicine uses filters and analytics to assure that such data is integrated, concise, and useful, avoiding the likelihood that critical information gets lost in a sea of data.

[CVS to integrate records with hospitals, doctors](#)

Fierce EMR, September 24, 2014

Starting next year, records from CVS pharmacies and the chain's Minute Clinics will be integrated with electronic medical records from 10 hospitals and 4,000 doctors in Washington, D.C., and Maryland. The initiative to improve communication between provider and pharmacy is expected to particularly benefit patients with chronic diseases and reduce complications that result in hospitalizations.

[AMA: Make mHealth part of a better EHR](#)

mHealth News, September 16, 2014

The American Medical Association recently produced a report which finds fault with the usability of most current Electronic Health Record Systems and with the barriers they present for fostering engagement of patients through electronic portals for EHR access and secure provider communications. Among eight priorities for improvement is a call for options that allow providers to harness data from wearable sensor technologies for monitoring and tracking health indicators.

Recent Telehealth Resources

Allemann Iseli M, Kunz R, Blozik E. Instruments to assess patient satisfaction after teleconsultation and triage: a systematic review. *Patient Prefer. Adherence* 8:893-907, 2014 [htm](#)

Castro CA. The US framework for understanding, preventing, and caring for the mental health needs of service members who served in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq: a brief review of the issues and the research. *Eur. J. Psychotraumatol.* 5, 24713, 2014. [htm](#)

Kalb T, Raikhelkar J, Meyer S, et al. A multicenter population-based effectiveness study of teleintensive care unit-directed ventilator rounds demonstrating improved adherence to a protective lung strategy, decreased ventilator duration, and decreased intensive care unit mortality. *J. Crit. Care* 29(4):691.e7-14, 2014 [htm](#)

Liddle J, Ireland D, McBride SJ, et al. Measuring the lifespan of people with Parkinson's disease using smartphones: proof of principle. *JMIR Mhealth Uhealth* 2(1):e13, 2014 [htm](#)

Maeng DD, Starr AE, Tomcavage JF, et al. Can telemonitoring reduce hospitalization and cost of care? A health plan's experience in managing patients with heart failure. *Pop. Health Man.* May [epub before print], 2014 [pdf](#)

Pantanowitz L, Krupinski EA. American Telemedicine Association 2014 meeting: What did you miss? *J Pathol. Inform.*5:30, 2014. [htm](#)

Potter AJ, Mueller KJ, Mackinney AC, Ward MM. Effect of tele-emergency services on recruitment and retention of US rural physicians. *Rural Remote Health* 14(3):2787, 2014 [htm](#)

Stern A, Mitsakakis N, Paulden M, Alibhai S, Wong J, Tomlinson G, Brooker AS, Krahn M, Zwarenstein M. Pressure ulcer multidisciplinary teams via telemedicine: a pragmatic cluster randomized stepped wedge trial in long term care. *BMC Health Serv. Res.* 14:83, 2014 [htm](#)

Toledo FG, Ruppert K, Huber KA, Siminerio LM. Efficacy of the Telemedicine for Reach, Education, Access, and Treatment (TREAT) model for diabetes care. *Diabetes Care* 37(8):e179-180, 2014 [htm](#)

Tieman JJ, Morgan DD, Swetenham K, To TH, Currow DC. Designing clinically valuable telehealth resources: processes to develop a community-based palliative care prototype. *JMIR Res. Protoc.* 3(3):e41, 2014 [htm](#)

Wu TC, Nguyen C, Ankrom C, Yang J, Persse D, Vahidy F, Grotta JC, Savitz SI. Prehospital utility of rapid stroke evaluation using in-ambulance telemedicine: a pilot feasibility study. *Stroke* 45(8):2342-2347, 2014 [htm](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

About Us

The [Northeast Telehealth Resource Center](#) is funded through the Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program offered by the US Department of Health and Human Services - Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) - Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (grant number G22RH22699). The grant program provides two years of financial support for the establishment and development of regional Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs) across the country.

