



Bree Collaborative Telehealth Workgroup Definitions

Telehealth

Telehealth is providing care at a distance utilizing medical and related data transferred via audio, video, and/or other types of telecommunications technology to provide or support clinical and non-clinical services (e.g., education, administration, public health).	Southwest Telehealth Resource Center ¹
Telehealth (or telemonitoring) is the use of telecommunications and information technology to provide access to health assessment, diagnosis, intervention, consultation, supervision and information across distance. Telehealth includes such technologies as telephones, facsimile machines, electronic mail systems, and remote patient monitoring devices which are used to collect and transmit data for monitoring and interpretation.	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ²
Strictly speaking, telemedicine is focused on clinical aspects of care, whereas telehealth is a broader term than encompasses clinical care plus health-related education, public health and health administration.	WA State Hospital Association ³
...used to encompass a broader definition of remote healthcare that does not always involve clinical services.	American Telemedicine Association ⁴

Telemedicine

Refers specifically to remote clinical services.	Southwest Telehealth Resource Center ⁵
The delivery of any healthcare service or transmission of wellness information using telecommunications technology.	American Telemedicine Association ⁶
... the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve patients' health status. Closely associated with telemedicine is the term "telehealth," which is often used to encompass a broader definition of remote healthcare that does not always involve clinical services. Videoconferencing, transmission of still images, e-	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ⁷

¹ Southwest Telehealth Resource Center. <https://telehealthresourcecenter.org/resources/what-is-telemedicine/>

² Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. "Telemedicine and Telehealth." www.cms.gov/telemedicine

³ Washington State Hospital Association. "Frequently Asked Questions about Telemedicine: A Clinician's Guide." <http://www.wsha.org/wp-content/uploads/Frequently-Asked-Questions-about-Telehealth-for-Providers-June-2017.pdf>

⁴ Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center. "What is Telehealth." <https://nrtrc.org/education/what.shtml>

⁵ Southwest Telehealth Resource Center. <https://telehealthresourcecenter.org/resources/what-is-telemedicine/>

⁶ Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center. "What is Telehealth." <https://nrtrc.org/education/what.shtml>

⁷ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. "Telemedicine and Telehealth." www.cms.gov/telemedicine



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health including patient portals, remote monitoring of vital signs, continuing medical education and nursing call centers are all considered part of telemedicine and telehealth.	
The delivery of health care services and clinical information to patients and providers in remote areas using audio-video conferencing technology. This includes a wide array of clinical services using internet, wireless, satellite, and telephone.	WA State Hospital Association ⁸
... the delivery of health care services through the use of interactive audio and video technology, permitting real-time communication between the patient at the originating site and the provider, for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, or treatment. For purposes of this section only, "telemedicine" does not include the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile, or email.	WA State Legislature ⁹

Asynchronous or Store & Forward

... use of an asynchronous transmission of a covered person's medical information from an originating site to the health care provider at a distant site which results in medical diagnosis and management of the covered person, and does not include the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile, or email.	WA State Legislature ¹⁰
... the use of a camera (e.g., audio clips, video clips, still images) to record (store) an image that is transmitted (forwarded) to another site for review at a later time.	American Health Information Management Association ¹¹
Store-and-forward technologies that collect images and data to be transmitted and interpreted later. Remote patient-monitoring tools such as blood pressure monitors, Bluetooth-enabled digital scales, and other wearable devices that can communicate biometric data for review (which may involve the use of mHealth apps). Online digital visits and/ or brief check-in services furnished using communication technology that are employed to evaluate whether or not an office visit is warranted (via patient portal, smartphone)	American Medical Association ¹²

⁸ Washington State Hospital Association. "Frequently Asked Questions about Telemedicine: A Clinician's Guide." <http://www.wsha.org/wp-content/uploads/Frequently-Asked-Questions-about-Telehealth-for-Providers-June-2017.pdf>

⁹ WA State Legislature RCW 48.43.735(8)(g) <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=48.43.735>

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). "Telemedicine: Bridging Gaps in Healthcare Delivery." <http://library.ahima.org/doc?oid=100028#.YBI3F-hKiUn>

¹² American Medical Association. "telehealth Implementation Playbook." <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-04/ama-telehealth-playbook.pdf>



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Synchronous or Interactive

<p>Interactive audio and video telecommunications system: real-time interactive video teleconferencing that involves the live presence of the provider and patient in an interactive environment. The provider actually sees the patient, so that two-way communication (sight and sound) can take place. In addition, documents, computer-displayed information, and whiteboards can be shared.</p>	American Health Information Management Association ¹³
<p>Real-time, audio-video communication that connect physicians and patients in different locations, which is often defined as telehealth. Real-time audio and telephone communications</p>	American Medical Association ¹⁴

¹³ American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). "Telemedicine: Bridging Gaps in Healthcare Delivery." <http://library.ahima.org/doc?oid=100028#.YBI3F-hKiUn>

¹⁴ American Medical Association. "telehealth Implementation Playbook." <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-04/ama-telehealth-playbook.pdf>