Telehealth Challenges and Opportunities

Internet2 Health Network Initiative Day

Crystal City, VA
April 24, 2008

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Health Resources and Services Administration
Office of Health Information Technology
Office for the Advancement of Telehealth
Challenges to Effective Care in the US

- **Access:** Persistent Geographic and Functionally Isolated Populations
- **Aging Population:** By 2030, 70 million Americans estimated to be over age 65 (20% of population)
- **Provider Shortages:** By 2020, RN nurse shortage estimated to reach 1 million
Challenges to Effective Care in US

- **Boomer Impact by 2020:**
  - Account for more than 40% of all physician visits

- **Boomer Impact by 2030:**
  - 14 million will have diabetes
  - 26 million will have arthritis
  - More than 21 million will be considered obese/care will cost Medicare 34% more than for others
  - Knee replacements will increase 800% from today
Comparison of Adoption Rates - NACHC 2006 Survey

HRSA

- HRSA is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable.
- HRSA programs reach into every corner of America, providing direct health care services for 20 million people each year (about 1 in every 15 Americans).
- HRSA uses its $6.4 billion budget (FY 2007) to serve as America’s health care safety net.
HRSA Primary Health Care

- Over 1200 health center grantees operate more than 4000 service delivery sites in every State, DC, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Pacific Basin.

- Health Centers treated more than 15 million patients in 2006. Approximately 2/3 of these patients were minorities and 4/10 were without health insurance.
HRSA’s HIT Goals

Bring HIT to America’s safety net providers which will:

- Improve quality of care
- Reduce health disparities
- Increase efficiency in care delivery systems
- Increase patient safety
- Decrease medical errors
- Prevent a digital divide
Vision for America

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE YOU GET THE HEALTH CARE YOU NEED WHEN YOU NEED IT
Telehealth vs. Telemedicine

Telehealth

- Health Professions Education
- Administration
- Evaluation Research
- Homeland Security
- Regional Health Inform. Sharing
- Consumer Education
- Public Health
Some telemedicine facts...

- Almost 50 different medical subspecialties have successfully used telemedicine.
- There are approximately 200 active telemedicine networks in the United States, excluding purely radiology networks.
- Of these, estimates are that about half are actively providing patient care services on a daily basis.
Key Challenges

• Reimbursement/Start-up Costs
• Re-engineering Practice/Clinical Acceptance
• Low Volume > High Per Visit Cost
• Evaluation: Measuring Cost-effectiveness
• Financial Sustainability
• Infrastructure
• Licensure/Credentialing
Advancing HIT through Networks

• Why Networks?
  - Economies of scale/cost efficiencies/volume
  - Enhanced efficiencies in business and clinical core areas
  - Higher performance and value
  - Sharing of expertise and staff among collaborators
OHIT/DSCA HIT Grants

• HIT Planning Grant: To support health center networks in planning for the adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) or other HIT innovations

• EHR Implementation Grants: To implement EHRs in CHC Networks
OHIT/DSCA Grant Programs

• High Impact Grants: Promotes the high impact implementation of an EHR in a short time frame

• HIT Innovation Grants: To implement health information technologies other than EHRs
# OHIT/DSCA HIT Funding Summary FY 2007

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Technical Assistance
HRSA Health IT Community Portal

- HRSA established a Health IT Community Portal for HRSA grantees with the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) to serve as a virtual community of:
  - Collaborate and share experiences
  - Create a central hub for communication across geographically disparate sites that allows grantees to view important announcements, documents, tasks, events, and discussions related to their initiative.
  - Provides access documents, tools and resources on issues related to planning for and implementing health IT in the community provider setting.
OHIT/OAT
Grant Awards

- Awarded over $250 million in grants since 1989
- Competitive and Congressionally-mandated projects
- FY2006/2007: 148 programs in 43 States and District of Columbia
Telehealth Programmatic Grants
FY 2006-2009

• Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program
  – 6 awards

• Telehealth Network Grant Program (including home health)
  – 16 awards

• Licensure Portability Grant Program
  – 2 awards
Telehealth Network Grants

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, AR
Northern Sierra Rural Health Network, CA
Ware County Board of Health, GA
The Queen's Medical Center, HI
Public Hospital Cooperative SE Idaho Inc., ID
Illinois Department of Human Services, IL
University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, KS
Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems, ME
Tri-County Hospital, MN
Citizen's Memorial Hospital District, MO
St. Patrick Hospital & Health Foundation, MT
Duke University, NC
Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron, OH
Home Nursing Agency & Visiting Nurse Association, PA
University of Washington, WA
Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, WI
FY 2006 Telehealth Resource Center Grantees/States Covered

• California Telemedicine and eHealth Center: California

• Northeast Telehealth Resource Center (Medical Center at Lubec): Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts

• Midwest Alliance for Telehealth and Technologies Resources (Marquette Hospital): Michigan, Kansas

• Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center (St. Vincent Foundation): Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington State, Wyoming

• Great Plains Telehealth Resource and Assistance Center (Avera Rural Health Institute): North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota

• Center for Telehealth and E-Health Law: National Center
Licensure Portability Grants

- Federation of State Medical Boards
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing
Technical Assistance/Information
http://www.HRSA.gov/telehealth

Grants Information
http://www.grants.gov
Scientists from the RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a “home computer” could look like in the year 2004. However, the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also, the scientists readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 50 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With teletype interface and the Fortran language, the computer will be easy to use.
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