

**AHA SCIENTIFIC STATEMENT**

# An Overview of Telehealth in the Management of Cardiovascular Disease: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association

Edwin A. Takahashi, MD, Chair; Lee H. Schwamm, MD, FACC, Vice Chair; Opeolu M. Adeoye, MD, FACC; Olamide Alabi, MD; Eiman Jahangir, MD, MPH, FACC; Sanjay Misra, MD, FACC; Carolyn H. Still, PhD, MSM; on behalf of the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Radiology and Intervention, Council on Hypertension, Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease, and Stroke Council

**ABSTRACT:** Telehealth enables the remote delivery of health care through telecommunication technologies and has substantially affected the evolving medical landscape. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the utilization of telehealth as health care professionals were forced to limit face-to-face in-person visits. It has been shown that information delivery, diagnosis, disease monitoring, and follow-up care can be conducted remotely, resulting in considerable changes specific to cardiovascular disease management. Despite increasing telehealth utilization, several factors such as technological infrastructure, reimbursement, and limited patient digital literacy can hinder the adoption of remote care. This scientific statement reviews definitions pertinent to telehealth discussions, summarizes the effect of telehealth utilization on cardiovascular and peripheral vascular disease care, and identifies obstacles to the adoption of telehealth that need to be addressed to improve health care accessibility and equity.

**Key Words:** AHA Scientific Statements ■ cardiovascular diseases ■ health services accessibility ■ telemedicine

Telehealth has experienced tremendous growth over the past several years. The ongoing pandemic caused by COVID-19 demonstrated the importance of telehealth as a substitute for in-person patient visits, because face-to-face contact was limited to reduce the spread of the virus. Up to 30% of all US ambulatory health care visits were conducted through telehealth early in the pandemic, with some centers delivering >90%, especially in behavioral health.<sup>1,2</sup>

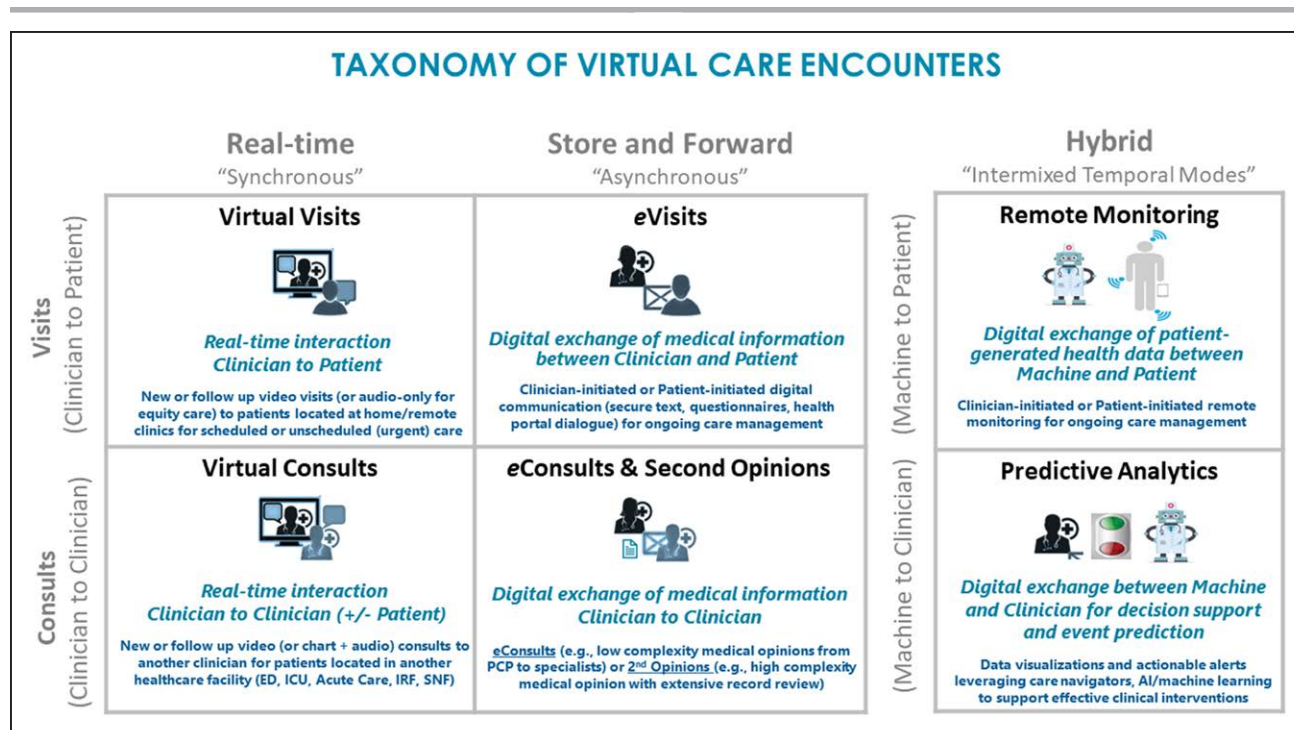
The Quadruple Aim, adapted from the Institute of Healthcare Improvement's Triple Aim, involves reducing cost, improving population health and patient experience, and team well-being.<sup>3</sup> Telehealth can reduce costs; improve access to care in rural and underserved communities; and increase quality, patient centeredness, and patient satisfaction.<sup>4,5</sup> This is especially important regarding cardiovascular disease (CVD), which in 2019 accounted for 875 000 deaths in the United States.<sup>6</sup> It has been shown that CVD disproportionately affects patients of lower socioeconomic status. According to

a study by Hamad and colleagues,<sup>7</sup> a simulation of 1.3 million 35-year-olds with low socioeconomic status on the basis of income or education level, projected that 250 000 will develop coronary artery disease by 65 years of age, which is nearly twice the rate of individuals with higher socioeconomic status.

The shift toward remote patient visits illustrates the health care system's resiliency and ability to adapt to new challenges. However, the sudden demand for telehealth uncovered systemic weaknesses, disparities, and limitations in the telehealth process.<sup>5,8</sup> The purpose of this scientific statement is to highlight the effect of telehealth in cardiac, cerebrovascular, and peripheral artery disease (PAD) disease management, review implementation strategies and obstacles to telehealth adoption, and discuss opportunities for future research.

## DEFINITIONS

Since 2007, the World Health Organization has defined telehealth as "The delivery of health care services,



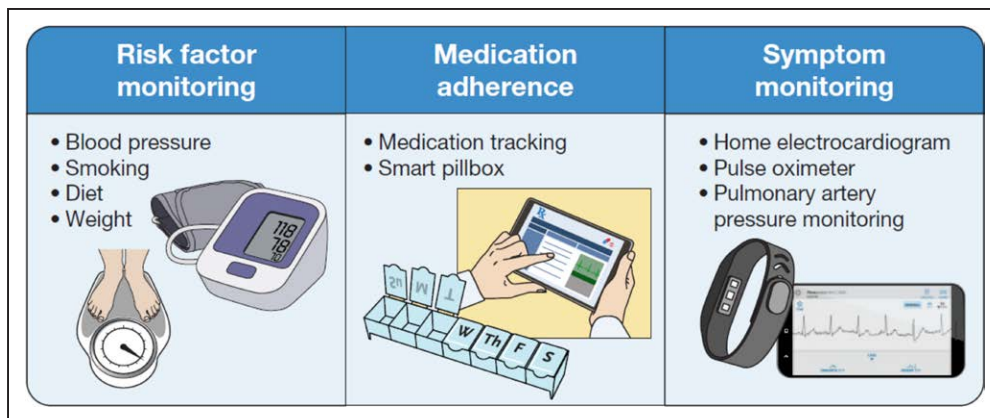
**Figure 1. Taxonomy of telehealth encounters.**

AI indicates artificial intelligence; ED, emergency department; ICU, intensive care unit; IRF, inpatient rehabilitation facility; PCP, primary care physician; and SNF, skilled nursing facility.

where distance is a critical factor, by all health care professionals using information and communication technologies for the exchange of valid information for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and injuries, research and evaluation, and for the continuing education of health care professionals, all in the interests of advancing the health of individuals and their communities.<sup>9</sup> Although digital health, virtual care, telehealth, and telemedicine are terms often used interchangeably to refer to this practice of care delivered from a distance, for the purposes of this article, we will use the term “telehealth.”<sup>10</sup> Because telehealth collapses the barriers of time and distance, it is ideal for providing care that is both patient centered and of high value as defined by efficient resource utilization to provide optimal outcomes.<sup>11</sup> It can be classified into 3 different scenarios: synchronous, asynchronous, or remote monitoring. Synchronous care is where there is an exchange of information by both parties simultaneously such as by a phone or video call. Asynchronous care is where there is exchange that can be decoupled and performed independently such as with text messaging or email. Remote monitoring is defined as non-face-to-face monitoring and analysis of physiological data or patient-reported symptoms or measures that are used to understand a patient's health status. Telehealth can also be characterized by the nature of the parties who are involved in the exchange, namely patients, health care professionals, or machines (Figure 1).

## TELEHEALTH AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Before the COVID-19 public health emergency, use of telehealth was limited, especially in primary care and family practice. In a previous report, only 15% of family practitioners used telehealth to provide health care.<sup>5</sup> It has recently become clear that COVID-19 infection is associated with an increased rate of stroke, cardiovascular complications, and thrombotic episodes (eg, cerebral venous sinus thrombosis), and that patients infected with COVID-19 who have preexisting CVD experience greater morbidity and mortality.<sup>12</sup> It is reassuring that among hospitals participating in Get With The Guidelines-Stroke, patients presenting with acute ischemic stroke (AIS) during COVID-19 received similar quality care and experienced similar risk-adjusted outcomes compared with patients with AIS presenting pre-COVID-19.<sup>13</sup> Efforts to decrease contagion through social distancing led many medical centers to impose restrictions to in-person care, and there was a massive shift to telehealth (or virtual care) across all types of health care settings, payor groups, and patients.<sup>14</sup> Although this rapid adoption increased access to basic health care services for many, it clearly also reduced health equity among patients with lower health literacy, digital literacy, or English proficiency. In a recent report, cardiologists decreased their ordering of diagnostic testing and medications when comparing visits in the pre-COVID-19 versus the COVID-19 era, and those who performed in person versus remotely



**Figure 2.** Telehealth tools for cardiovascular home monitoring.

through telehealth. Further studies are needed to clarify whether these decreases represent a reduction in the overuse of tests and medications versus an underuse of indicated testing and prescribing.<sup>15</sup>

## TELEHEALTH IN CARDIAC DISEASE

Telehealth has been used to facilitate the management of many CVDs, such as arrhythmia detection, heart failure, hypertension, coronary artery disease, and myocardial infarction. Telehealth interventions can continuously monitor patients with CVD and may include anything from structured telephone or video support to remote monitoring of wearable or implantable devices. An advantage of the latter is that they can favorably affect CVD burden, such as significantly reducing blood pressure, progression of disease, and health care expenditures.

Telehealth is useful for risk factor modification, medication adherence, and symptom monitoring in both coronary artery disease and congestive heart failure (Figure 2).<sup>16–20</sup> Risk factor modification includes monitoring and improving blood pressure and lipid levels, encouraging exercise and dietary changes, and counseling toward smoking cessation. Through telephone calls, short message service texts, and online portals, individuals and clinicians can track the progress of vital signs and laboratory tests, provide more timely medication adjustments, and encourage physical activity, diet, and medication adherence, as well. Data from small randomized controlled trials and meta-analyses demonstrate significant improvement in risk factors with telehealth, although the durability of the interventions remains unclear.<sup>16–20</sup>

Telehealth also can detect symptoms and weight gain in congestive heart failure. Monitoring individuals with connected device weight scales that transmit data through Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, cellular, or other means can allow health care professionals to adjust diuretic doses. This, along with frequent check-ins through telehealth, can improve medication adherence, dietary salt intake, and evaluation of symptoms.<sup>21–23</sup> The ability for these

measures to decrease hospitalizations is mixed with some studies showing no significant difference between control and intervention arms.<sup>21–24</sup> The differences in the findings of these studies may be attributed to variations in enrollment, clinical workflows, technologies, and analysis. Hence, more research into the application of telehealth in heart failure treatment is needed.<sup>25</sup> Likewise, the diagnostic evaluation of chest pain could potentially be improved by combining home ECG monitoring with symptom reporting. The data on chest pain evaluation through telehealth are limited and require further study.

Beyond external monitoring of symptoms and vital signs, implantable devices such as those that monitor intracardiac device impedance or pulmonary artery pressure may have a role in telehealth. Although device impedance to monitor patients' volume status has been used for many years, there has been no significant improvement in mortality rates or hospitalizations, and increased admission rates have been observed.<sup>26,27</sup> Further assessment is needed to determine the use of impedance in telehealth. Measuring pulmonary artery pressure through implantable devices (eg, CardioMEMS device by Abbott), on the other hand, appears to be useful demonstrating a reduction of hospitalization by 30% in the CHAMPION trial (CardioMEMS Heart Sensor Allows Monitoring of Pressure to Improve Outcomes in NYHA Class III Heart Failure Patients).<sup>28</sup> Although these devices require implantation by a physician, they do allow for home monitoring of individuals with congestive heart failure.

In addition, individuals now have access to a large number of commercially available health portals and smart devices. These devices and platforms support greater patient engagement in improving their own health, monitor for irregularities, and report back to their health care professional. By measuring heart rate, physical activity levels, and single-lead ECGs, patients can go to their physician with a larger array of data.<sup>29</sup> The market for these direct-to-patient technologies will likely continue to grow as will their reliability. However, the

implementation of these data within the constraints of the average clinical visit time requires further refinements to processing and electronic medical record infrastructure. Last, medication adherence through smart pill dispensers may improve symptoms and outcomes by ensuring regimens are followed as prescribed.<sup>30</sup> Although these types of technologies make use and monitoring simpler going forward, further trials are needed to validate their use for disease management.

## TELESTROKE

The best studied area with the most compelling evidence of benefit and clinical acceptance of telehealth in CVD is its use in AIS and evaluation for reperfusion therapy.<sup>31,32</sup> The field of artificial intelligence has recently been applied to cardiovascular imaging, with several Food and Drug Administration–approved algorithms in patients with ischemic stroke for the automated detection of early signs of brain infarction, large vessel occlusion, and the volume of brain with impaired perfusion, although further investigation into the additional value of these algorithms is needed.<sup>33</sup> These tools, coupled with enhanced methods for interdisciplinary communication among the health care team, including emergency medical service personnel, emergency clinicians, neurologists, and neuroendovascular specialists has shown promise in increasing the proportion of patients with large vessel occlusion detection and shortening the time to mechanical thrombectomy.

Telestroke, the application of telehealth for acute stroke, was initially proposed in 1999.<sup>34</sup> Treatment of AIS with intravenous thrombolysis is time dependent, and in 1999 <1.5% of patients with AIS were being treated with intravenous thrombolysis. Contributors to the poor treatment rates and the need for telestroke services included inadequate hospital access in rural and ethnically diverse communities and inadequate stroke expertise at most hospitals at that time. Hub-and-spoke telestroke networks first emerged as key systems of care within academic medical centers to mitigate these issues.<sup>35</sup> In these networks, stroke experts at primary and comprehensive stroke centers provide telehealth consultation for acute stroke evaluation and treatment at community and rural hospitals without onsite stroke expertise. Subsequently, alternative organizational delivery networks have evolved that may leverage any combination of the following: existing employed or private affiliated medical staff, third party outsourced staffing models supplied by for-profit or nonprofit companies, physician and advanced practice clinicians. These consultations may be documented directly into the originating site's electronic health record, or into the telestroke service's medical record system with health information exchange to the originating site, and orders may be conveyed as recommendations to the bedside treating physician or

written directly into the computerized order entry system. Many factors drive which model is used and include local human and financial resource availability, network affiliations, available service offerings, and case mix.

Multiple published reports from academic health systems or clinical trials have subsequently shown that telestroke improves the accuracy of AIS diagnosis, improves rates of intravenous thrombolysis, and is cost-effective.<sup>36–38</sup> Data further suggest that telestroke can expand access to acute stroke care without racial and ethnic disparities.<sup>8</sup> Telestroke has been a crucial component of stroke systems of care, including the designation of different levels of hospital stroke readiness.<sup>39</sup> Although AIS thrombolysis treatment rates have improved since 1999, overall treatment rates remain low along with substantial gaps in access to mechanical thrombectomy for AIS.<sup>40,41</sup>

Telehealth use in acute stroke has recently expanded to the inpatient and prehospital setting. In the inpatient setting, teleneurology consultation provides access to expertise for inpatient management in the subacute phase of care to help guide secondary prevention decision-making and discharge interventions. This has become increasingly important to ensure access to care in nonurban areas where significant gaps in hospital-based neurology care exist. These services can efficiently and effectively address a broad spectrum of neurological conditions beyond stroke, which is important because many patients with suspected stroke turn out to have other conditions that will also require expert consultation.<sup>42</sup> In many European stroke systems of care, ongoing telestroke consultation to support patients who remain at the originating site is the predominant model.<sup>43</sup>

In the prehospital setting, mobile stroke units are ambulances equipped with computed tomography imaging capabilities and telehealth videoconferencing that allow rapid prehospital evaluation, faster treatment of AIS, and appropriate triage of patients with hemorrhagic stroke. A recent randomized trial, and a systematic review and meta-analysis, as well, found that patients treated in mobile stroke units had significantly shorter time to treatment and higher odds of better clinical outcomes than those treated in hospitals.<sup>44,45</sup> Although not all mobile stroke units include remote evaluation, the reliability of on-site and remote National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale examinations have been shown to correlate well.<sup>46</sup> Overall, telestroke for acute stroke evaluation and treatment is a major success story for the utility of telehealth, and, given this success, expansion of telehealth into other realms of stroke care is occurring.

Telerehabilitation interventions that have been studied in stroke survivors have included motor recovery, speech/language, depression, caregiver strain, cortical dysfunction, and management of stroke risk factors.<sup>47</sup> Approaches may be synchronous with a therapist in real time, asynchronous using online computer-based/



recorded interventions, or a combination of both. Similar to objectives of treatment in acute stroke, telerehabilitation can improve access to care and reduce disparities in stroke rehabilitation and recovery. Although early adoption of telerehabilitation dates back to the 1990s, widespread adoption has been slow.<sup>47,48</sup> New data showing similarity of outcomes of clinic-based rehabilitation compared with home-based telerehabilitation, coupled with the rapid expansion of telehealth use in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, may result in marked increases in the use of telerehabilitation for stroke in the coming years.<sup>49</sup>

Use of telehealth for stroke evaluation and treatment in both the acute and rehabilitation/recovery phases has potential to improve access to care and reduce disparities. Ongoing and future efforts should target vulnerable populations such as racial and ethnic minorities, men, older people, and those living in rural areas who are less likely to use telehealth.<sup>50</sup> These expansions of various modes of telehealth for stroke care across the continuum from prevention through recovery lay the groundwork for new hybrid care delivery models. The incorporation of remote patient monitoring and patient-generated health data from digital health devices at home, augmented by synchronous video and asynchronous care plan elements, represents a viable care paradigm (see Figure 1) complete with reimbursement. These new frameworks of care will require sophisticated decision-support algorithms, robotic process automation, integration within electronic health record systems, all positioned within a coherent framework for assessing quality and outcomes in telestroke.<sup>46</sup>

## TELEHEALTH IN PAD MANAGEMENT

Telehealth holds promise in numerous applications toward the management of patients with PAD. The use of telehealth in clinical practice has proven successful in terms of reductions in costs and travel times and improvement in patient satisfaction.<sup>51–53</sup> Although telehealth can be used for simple facilitation of discussions surrounding new patient history-taking, and the communication of findings on a recent imaging study, as well, the scope of synchronous and asynchronous telehealth encounters in practice is much wider.

Given the chronicity and morbidity associated with PAD, its management requires longitudinal monitoring and follow-up. This can often prove cumbersome to the patient and their support team. Various monitoring devices have been developed to assist in prevention of adverse outcomes in the patient population with PAD. For example, elevated temperature detection on a foot without a wound may represent a vulnerable area for future pedal wound development. As such, the use of pedal temperature sensors has been demonstrated to be feasible and efficacious in reducing incident pedal

ulceration.<sup>54–56</sup> There are several devices that allow measurement of pedal pressure during static and dynamic weight-bearing, and devices that can assess and track patient compliance with the utilization of prescribed pedal offloading footwear, as well.<sup>57–60</sup>

In a randomized controlled study among 182 patients with diabetic foot ulcers, telehealth was noninferior to standard outpatient care when comparing wound-healing rates.<sup>61</sup> Of note, in this study, amputation rates were lower in the telehealth group. Other studies have shown that the addition of wound photographs to a clinical vignette improves the diagnostic accuracy of wound infection.<sup>62</sup> In a systematic review, experts suggest that the use of smart technology through wearable devices can extend the duration of ulcer-free days after ulcer healing.<sup>59,63</sup> Few studies focus specifically on the post-operative monitoring of wounds; however, reports suggest that this approach is feasible and warrants further evaluation in patient populations with PAD.<sup>64,65</sup> Large well-designed studies introducing wearable technology, telecoaching, and innovations in shared medical appointment paradigms are needed.

## TELERADIOLOGY

The COVID-19 outbreak accelerated the use of teleradiology because clinical staff moved to remote working platforms. Teleradiology systems first became commercially available in the 1980s.<sup>66</sup> Technological advances in computer systems, communications systems, and the digitization of radiographic images led to the growth of remote image viewing and interpretation starting in the mid-1990s. Modern teleradiology enables more health care accessibility for underserved groups and more expeditious care for patients in regions without subspecialized radiologic expertise.<sup>67</sup>

Teleradiology plays an important role in cardiac and stroke care. According to a survey of radiologists from 2019,  $\approx 78\%$  of respondents interpreted imaging acquired from a different facility.<sup>68</sup> Among the cohort of respondents,  $\leq 93\%$  of subspecialty-trained cardiothoracic radiologists and  $86\%$  of neuroradiologists participate in offsite examination interpretation. Recent studies, such as the SCOT-HEART Trial (Scottish Computed Tomography of the HEART Trial), have demonstrated the important role for coronary computed tomography angiography in the initial chest pain evaluation.<sup>69</sup> Likewise, the non-contrast computed tomography of the head is the initial diagnostic imaging test to evaluate for intracranial hemorrhage in patients presenting with signs of stroke and is crucial for guiding cerebrovascular reperfusion therapy.<sup>70</sup> Prompt image interpretation through teleradiology enables faster and more streamlined CVD care, in particular, in settings that lack staffing or resources.

Despite the widespread clinical use of teleradiology platforms, there are still limited data on the objective

**Table 1. Potential Obstacles to Telehealth Implementation for Health Care Professionals and Patients**

Health care professional–centered obstacles	Patient-centered obstacles
Institutional infrastructure	Limited internet bandwidth
Legal and regulatory issues	Lack of telephone service
Health care professional biases	Health literacy
Reduced reimbursement	Digital literacy
Limited patient rapport	Digital mistrust
Potential data breaches	Lingual barriers

effect of teleradiology systems on coronary and cerebrovascular disease. How this technology improves CVD outcomes has not been measured. Furthermore, with advancements in technology, multiple apps have been cleared by the Food and Drug Administration for diagnostic image viewing on portable devices in the past 10 years.<sup>71</sup> Many opportunities remain to assess the role of these mobile apps in CVD management.

## OBSTACLES TO TELEHEALTH FOR CLINICIANS

Although emerging data have shown that telehealth use has grown rapidly, numerous obstacles remain that contribute to the adoption and use of telehealth by clinicians (Table).<sup>5,72,73</sup> In the context of managing CVDs, clinical perception, system-based barriers, legal and regulatory issues, and patient perceptions may slow the adoption of telehealth.<sup>74</sup>

Implementation of telehealth has the potential to decrease health care costs while simultaneously improving access and quality of care to patients with CVD; yet health care professionals' acceptance and uptake of telehealth varies.<sup>75–77</sup> Infrequent use of telehealth mechanisms for CVD management is hindered by clinicians' biases and attitudes.<sup>78,79</sup> Age, technology expertise, and perceived accessibility and usefulness of technology are characteristics in individuals that may impede telehealth adoption and use.<sup>74,78</sup> In particular, uptake of telehealth may stagnate at the clinical level because of logistical challenges; that is, factors that interrupt clinical practice and workflow (eg, coordinating care and clinic schedule) and create time constraints to establish patient rapport and deliver effective and efficient patient-centered care.<sup>78,80</sup> Devices for home monitoring may also require infrastructure to analyze results, which can lead to increased implementation costs. Little is known about the physician characteristics associated with the successful transition to virtual health care, but data from one large health system found that female, primary care, and behavioral health physicians were most likely to lead the transformation to virtual health care.<sup>81</sup>

System-level factors such as reimbursement, medical licensure, privacy, and data security are additional obstacles to endorsing telehealth, and may contribute to the reluctance of health care professionals to use virtual services.<sup>5,82</sup> First, a significant restriction to telehealth's widespread adoption and use is the limited coverage and reimbursement from federal programs (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) and commercial/private insurance plans.<sup>5,83</sup> In addition, reimbursements of telehealth services vary by state and are covered on the basis of the type of virtual service (eg, real-time video transmission, forwarding of prerecorded video transmission, and remote monitoring) and health condition treated. Also, many state laws and regulatory mandates require a valid practice license to provide virtual care.<sup>84</sup> Because each state's regulations differ, multistate licensure and its cost make telehealth unattractive to clinicians and a critical barrier.

Last, it has been suggested that organizational arrangements to accommodate technology infrastructure, including health resource use and operating costs, limit the implementation of telehealth.<sup>80</sup> For example, with the rapid introduction of numerous telehealth platforms, difficult-to-use technology may require third-party configurations and oversight, necessitating extensive technology training attributable to various virtual care settings (eg, home, office, allocated space) and numerous technology devices.<sup>83</sup> Of equal importance, as telehealth transforms health care delivery, privacy and security risk are major concerns. Despite the fact that most telehealth platforms are highly encrypted, with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act–compliant platforms (eg, Zoom or Skype), they are not fully secure and are at risk for data breaches.<sup>72,85</sup>

## OBSTACLES TO TELEHEALTH FOR PATIENTS

Several factors create obstacles that hinder patient participation in telehealth care. One particular challenge involves ensuring health equity and accommodations for disadvantaged populations: older adults, low-resourced minority populations, and individuals requiring translational services.<sup>86</sup> Vulnerability factors, coupled with adverse environments, limited resources, digital mistrust, digital literacy, lack of internet connectivity or health information technology device, are among the challenges cited as thwarting telehealth uptake in patients.<sup>87</sup> Individuals who have lower socioeconomic status, health literacy issues, or cultural and linguistic barriers remain encumbered and unable to harness digital platforms' full capabilities, particularly when it comes to digital health technologies, consumer wearables, and other devices that require patients to purchase, subscribe, or pay for monitoring.<sup>86–88</sup>

Furthermore, insufficient internet bandwidth speed is a major barrier that disrupts and limits virtual care services for the patient, especially in rural or poorer areas of the country.

## STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME TELEHEALTH OBSTACLES

Barriers to telehealth implementation are largely centered around infrastructure, technology, and reimbursement. The infrastructure required for broadband internet needs to be improved, especially in rural America where having adequate medical infrastructure is lacking because of a “medical desert.”<sup>89</sup> Approximately one-quarter of American adults do not have broadband access.<sup>90</sup> This issue could be improved through changes in public policy to supplement efforts by the private sector.<sup>91</sup> Future research that appraises the current policy systems and identifies potential targets for policy reform is necessary.

The use of telehealth spiked early in the COVID-19 pandemic, but data have shown that utilization has slowly declined.<sup>1</sup> Perceived limitations in quality of deliverable care through remote visits may play a role in the retention rate. Although more clinical consultations and follow-up shift back to in person, telehealth has the potential to have a larger role in urgent diagnosis and remote monitoring. Thus, we encourage more investigation into the role telehealth can play in the evolving landscape of CVD management beyond the pandemic.

Reimbursement challenges for telehealth such as patients who seek care at academic centers from different states needs to be simplified as it is for in-person face-to-face visits. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and private insurance companies, as well, established telehealth payment parity to reimburse certain telehealth services at rates equal to in-person services. However, not all insurance payers support full payment parity between telephone and video visits, which ultimately penalizes health care professionals caring for patients of lower socioeconomic status who lack video capability.<sup>88</sup> Whether payment parity will persist after the pandemic is unclear. Opponents of payment parity suggest that telehealth may require less clinical effort and results in less value than in-person care. Moreover, there are data to suggest that neither the presence nor the duration of state parity laws are associated with adoption of telehealth.<sup>92</sup> Thus, more research on the effect of reimbursement changes to telehealth implementation is needed.

Last, there is a lack of standardized methods for assessing telehealth quality. Potential metrics could include patient-reported outcomes, compliance with device usage, and tracking outcomes related to false-positive rates.<sup>93</sup> Applying these quality metrics is a challenging endeavor given the broadness of telehealth. Nevertheless, it would allow for better appraisal of telehealth modalities that could pave the way for better reimbursement and incentives for adoption if positive patient outcomes and reduced expenditure are demonstrated.

## CONCLUSION

Cardiovascular diseases affect a significant proportion of the population and disproportionately affect patients in rural and minority communities. Advances in technology have enabled the growth of telehealth strategies to improve patient care and medical resource accessibility, which has led to more equitable care. The COVID-19 pandemic improved the telehealth infrastructure through necessity but also uncovered systemic weakness, limitations, and inequities. Further research into barriers for telehealth implementation and equitable execution are important to ensure the delivery of high-quality care for patients.

## ARTICLE INFORMATION

The American Heart Association makes every effort to avoid any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise as a result of an outside relationship or a personal, professional, or business interest of a member of the writing panel. Specifically, all members of the writing group are required to complete and submit a Disclosure Questionnaire showing all such relationships that might be perceived as real or potential conflicts of interest.

This statement was approved by the American Heart Association Science Advisory and Coordinating Committee on August 22, 2022, and the American Heart Association Executive Committee on October 10, 2022. A copy of the document is available at <https://professional.heart.org/statements> by using either “Search for Guidelines & Statements” or the “Browse by Topic” area. To purchase additional reprints, call 215-356-2721 or email [Meredith.Edelman@wolterskluwer.com](mailto:Meredith.Edelman@wolterskluwer.com).

The American Heart Association requests that this document be cited as follows: Takahashi EA, Schwamm LH, Adeoye OM, Alabi O, Jahangir E, Misra S, Still CH; on behalf of the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Radiology and Intervention; Council on Hypertension; Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease; and Stroke Council. An overview of telehealth in the management of cardiovascular disease: a scientific statement from the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2022;146:e558–e568. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000001107

The expert peer review of AHA-commissioned documents (eg, scientific statements, clinical practice guidelines, systematic reviews) is conducted by the AHA Office of Science Operations. For more on AHA statements and guidelines development, visit <https://professional.heart.org/statements>. Select the “Guidelines & Statements” drop-down menu, then click “Publication Development.”

Permissions: Permissions: Multiple copies, modification, alteration, enhancement, and distribution of this document are not permitted without the express permission of the American Heart Association. Instructions for obtaining permission are located at <https://www.heart.org/permissions>. A link to the “Copyright Permissions Request Form” appears in the second paragraph (<https://www.heart.org/en/about-us/statements-and-policies/copyright-request-form>).

## Disclosures

### Writing Group Disclosures

Writing group member	Employment	Research grant	Other research support	Speakers' bureau/honoraria	Expert witness	Ownership interest	Consultant/advisory board	Other
Edwin A. Takahashi	Mayo Clinic	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Lee H. Schwamm	Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital	None	None	None	None	None	Lifeimage†	None
Opeolu M. Adeoye	Washington University	NIH/NINDS†	None	None	None	Sense Diagnostics, Inc.†	None	None
Olamide Alabi	Emory University School of Medicine	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Eiman Jahangir	Vanderbilt University Medical Center	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Sanjay Misra	Mayo Clinic	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Carolyn H. Still	Case Western Reserve University, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing	None	None	None	None	None	None	None

This table represents the relationships of writing group members that may be perceived as actual or reasonably perceived conflicts of interest as reported on the Disclosure Questionnaire, which all members of the writing group are required to complete and submit. A relationship is considered to be "significant" if (a) the person receives \$5 000 or more during any 12-month period, or 5% or more of the person's gross income; or (b) the person owns 5% or more of the voting stock or share of the entity or owns \$5 000 or more of the fair market value of the entity. A relationship is considered to be "modest" if it is less than "significant" under the preceding definition.

†Significant.

### Reviewer Disclosures

Reviewer	Employment	Research grant	Other research support	Speakers' bureau/honoraria	Expert witness	Ownership interest	Consultant/advisory board	Other
Annette K. Ansong	Inova Health Systems/Mednax	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Sanjeev P. Bhavnani	Scripps Clinic and Research Institute	Scripps Clinic (Immediate Family Members; Unrestricted educational and research grant to study digital health technologies and artificial intelligence in CV care)*	None	None	None	CorVistat; Blumio*	None	None
Bart M. Demaerschalk	Mayo Clinic	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Edward C. Jauch	UNC Health Sciences at MAHEC	None	None	None	None	None	RAPID.AI*	None
Lawrence R. Wechsler	University of Pennsylvania	None	None	None	None	None	None	None

This table represents the relationships of reviewers that may be perceived as actual or reasonably perceived conflicts of interest as reported on the Disclosure Questionnaire, which all reviewers are required to complete and submit. A relationship is considered to be "significant" if (a) the person receives \$5 000 or more during any 12-month period, or 5% or more of the person's gross income; or (b) the person owns 5% or more of the voting stock or share of the entity, or owns \$5 000 or more of the fair market value of the entity. A relationship is considered to be "modest" if it is less than "significant" under the preceding definition.

\*Modest.

†Significant.

## REFERENCES

- Demeke HB, Pao LZ, Clark H, Romero L, Neri A, Shah R, McDow KB, Tindall E, Iqbal NJ, Hatfield-Timajchy K, et al. Telehealth practice among health centers during the COVID-19 pandemic: United States, July 11–17, 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2020;69:1902–1905. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm6950a4
- Zachrisson KS, Yan Z, Schwamm LH. Changes in virtual and in-person health care utilization in a large health system during the COVID-19 pandemic. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2021;4:e2129973. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.29973
- Vockley M. The rise of telehealth: 'triple aim,' innovative technology, and popular demand are spearheading new models of health and wellness care. *Biomed Instrum Technol.* 2015;49:306–320. doi: 10.2345/0899-8205-49.5.306
- Hirko KA, Kerver JM, Ford S, Szafranski C, Beckett J, Kitchen C, Wendling AL. Telehealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: implications for rural health disparities. *J Am Med Inform Assoc.* 2020;27:1816–1818. doi: 10.1093/jamia/ocaa156
- Schwamm LH, Chumbler N, Brown E, Fonarow GC, Berube D, Nystrom K, Suter R, Zavala M, Polsky D, Radhakrishnan K, et al; on behalf of the American Heart Association Advocacy Coordinating Committee. Recommendations for the implementation of telehealth in cardiovascular and stroke



- care: a policy statement from the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2017;135:e24–e44. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000000475
6. Tsao CW, Aday AW, Almarazgo ZI, Alonso A, Beaton AZ, Bittencourt MS, Boehme AK, Buxton AE, Carson AP, Commodore-Mensah Y, et al. Heart disease and stroke statistics—2022 update: a report from the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2022;145:e153–e639. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000001052
  7. Hamad R, Penko J, Kazi DS, Coxson P, Guzman D, Wei PC, Mason A, Wang EA, Goldman L, Fiscella K, et al. Association of low socioeconomic status with premature coronary heart disease in US adults. *JAMA Cardiol*. 2020;5:899–908. doi: 10.1001/jamacardio.2020.1458
  8. Lyerly MJ, Wu TC, Mullen MT, Albright KC, Wolff C, Boehme AK, Branas CC, Grotta JC, Savitz SI, Carr BG. The effects of telemedicine on racial and ethnic disparities in access to acute stroke care. *J Telemed Telecare*. 2016;22:114–120. doi: 10.1177/1357633X15589534
  9. World Health Organization. Telemedicine: opportunities and developments in member states: report on the second global survey on eHealth. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2010. Accessed May 4, 2022. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/44497>
  10. Schwamm LH. Telehealth: seven strategies to successfully implement disruptive technology and transform health care. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2014;33:200–206. doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2013.1021
  11. Razmaria AA. JAMA PATIENT PAGE. High-value care. *JAMA*. 2015;314:2462. doi: 10.1001/jama.2015.16990
  12. Sánchez van Kammen M, Aguiar de Sousa D, Poli S, Cordonnier C, Heldner MR, van de Munkhof A, Krzywicka K, van Haaps T, Ciccone A, Middeldorp S, et al; Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis With Thrombocytopenia Syndrome Study Group. Characteristics and outcomes of patients with cerebral venous sinus thrombosis in SARS-CoV-2 vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia. *JAMA Neurol*. 2021;78:1314–1323. doi: 10.1001/jama.2021.3619
  13. Srivastava PK, Zhang S, Xian Y, Xu H, Rutan C, Alger HM, Walchok JG, Williams JH, de Lemos JA, Decker-Palmer MR, et al. Treatment and outcomes of patients with ischemic stroke during COVID-19: an analysis from Get With The Guidelines-Stroke. *Stroke*. 2021;52:3225–3232. doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.120.034414
  14. Zachrisson KS, Yan Z, Sequist T, Licurse A, Tan-McGrory A, Erskine A, Schwamm LH. Patient characteristics associated with the successful transition to virtual care: lessons learned from the first million patients [published ahead of print June 13, 2021]. *J Telemed Telecare*. doi: 10.1177/1357633X211015547
  15. Yuan N, Pevnick JM, Botting PG, Elad Y, Miller SJ, Cheng S, Ebinger JE. Patient use and clinical practice patterns of remote cardiology clinic visits in the era of COVID-19. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2021;4:e214157. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.4157
  16. Tseng SJ, Lu YY, Kao CW. [The effects of mobile health care on the physiological index in patients with coronary artery disease]. *Hu Li Za Zhi*. 2020;67:66–80. doi: 10.6224/JN.202002\_67(1).09
  17. Turan Kavradim S, Özer Z, Boz İ. Effectiveness of telehealth interventions as a part of secondary prevention in coronary artery disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Scand J Caring Sci*. 2020;34:585–603. doi: 10.1111/scs.12785
  18. Chow CK, Redfern J, Hillis GS, Thakkar J, Santo K, Hackett ML, Jan S, Graves N, de Keizer L, Barry T, et al. Effect of lifestyle-focused text messaging on risk factor modification in patients with coronary heart disease: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA*. 2015;314:1255–1263. doi: 10.1001/jama.2015.10945
  19. Tucker KL, Sheppard JP, Stevens R, Bosworth HB, Bove A, Bray EP, Earle K, George J, Godwin M, Green BB, et al. Self-monitoring of blood pressure in hypertension: a systematic review and individual patient data meta-analysis. *PLoS Med*. 2017;14:e1002389. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1002389
  20. Pfaeffli Dale L, Whittaker R, Jiang Y, Stewart R, Rolleston A, Maddison R. Text message and internet support for coronary heart disease self-management: results from the Text4Heart randomized controlled trial. *J Med Internet Res*. 2015;17:e237. doi: 10.2196/jmir.4944
  21. Rosen D, McCall JD, Primack BA. Telehealth protocol to prevent readmission among high-risk patients with congestive heart failure. *Am J Med*. 2017;130:1326–1330. doi: 10.1016/j.amjmed.2017.07.007
  22. Inglis SC, Clark RA, Dierckx R, Prieto-Merino D, Cleland JG. Structured telephone support or non-invasive telemonitoring for patients with heart failure. *Heart*. 2017;103:255–257. doi: 10.1136/heartjnl-2015-309191
  23. Kenealy TW, Parsons MJ, Rouse AP, Doughty RN, Sheridan NF, Hindmarsh JK, Masson SC, Rea HH. Telecare for diabetes, CHF or COPD: effect on quality of life, hospital use and costs. A randomised controlled trial and qualitative evaluation. *PLoS One*. 2015;10:e0116188. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0116188
  24. Ong MK, Romano PS, Edgington S, Aronow HU, Auerbach AD, Black JT, De Marco T, Escarce JJ, Evangelista LS, Hanna B, et al; Better Effectiveness After Transition—Heart Failure (BEAT-HF) Research Group. Effectiveness of remote patient monitoring after discharge of hospitalized patients with heart failure: the Better Effectiveness After Transition—Heart Failure (BEAT-HF) randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2016;176:310–318. doi: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2015.7712
  25. Maddox TM, Januzzi JL, Allen LA, Breathett K, Butler J, Davis LL, Fonarow GC, Ibrahim NE, Lindenfeld J, Masoudi FA, et al. 2021 Update to the 2017 ACC expert consensus decision pathway for optimization of heart failure treatment: answers to 10 pivotal issues about heart failure with reduced ejection fraction a report of the American College of Cardiology Solution Set Oversight Committee. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2021;77:772–810. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2020.11.022
  26. van Veldhuisen DJ, Braunschweig F, Conraads V, Ford I, Cowie MR, Jondeau G, Kautzner J, Aguilera RM, Lunati M, Yu CM, et al; DOT-HF Investigators. Intrathoracic impedance monitoring, audible patient alerts, and outcome in patients with heart failure. *Circulation*. 2011;124:1719–1726. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.111.043042
  27. Morgan JM, Kitt S, Gill J, McComb JM, Ng GA, Raftery J, Roderick P, Seed A, Williams SG, Witte KK, et al. Remote management of heart failure using implantable electronic devices. *Eur Heart J*. 2017;38:2352–2360. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehx227
  28. Abraham WT, Stevenson LW, Bourge RC, Lindenfeld JA, Bauman JG, Adamson PB; CHAMPION Trial Study Group. Sustained efficacy of pulmonary artery pressure to guide adjustment of chronic heart failure therapy: complete follow-up results from the CHAMPION randomised trial. *Lancet*. 2016;387:453–461. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(15)00723-0
  29. Pronovost FJ, Cole MD, Hughes RM. Remote patient monitoring during COVID-19: an unexpected patient safety benefit. *JAMA*. 2022;327:1125–1126. doi: 10.1001/jama.2022.2040
  30. Mason M, Cho Y, Rayo J, Gong Y, Harris M, Jiang Y. Technologies for medication adherence monitoring and technology assessment criteria: narrative review. *JMIR Mhealth Uhealth*. 2022;10:e35157. doi: 10.2196/35157
  31. Warner JJ, Harrington RA, Sacco RL, Elkind MSV. Guidelines for the Early management of patients with acute ischemic stroke: 2019 update to the 2018 guidelines for the early management of acute ischemic stroke. *Stroke*. 2019;50:3331–3332. doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.119.027708
  32. Schwamm LH, Holloway RG, Amarenco P, Audebert HJ, Bakas T, Chumbler NR, Handschu R, Jauch EC, Knight WA 4th, Levine SR, et al; on behalf of the American Heart Association Stroke Council; Interdisciplinary Council on Peripheral Vascular Disease. A review of the evidence for the use of telemedicine within stroke systems of care: a scientific statement from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. *Stroke*. 2009;40:2616–2634. doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.109.192360
  33. Murray NM, Unberath M, Hager GD, Hui FK. Artificial intelligence to diagnose ischemic stroke and identify large vessel occlusions: a systematic review. *J Neurointerv Surg*. 2020;12:156–164. doi: 10.1136/neurintsurg-2019-015135
  34. Levine SR, Gorman M. "Telestroke": the application of telemedicine for stroke. *Stroke*. 1999;30:464–469. doi: 10.1161/01.str.30.2.464
  35. Fisher M. Developing and implementing future stroke therapies: the potential of telemedicine. *Ann Neurol*. 2005;58:666–671. doi: 10.1002/ana.20659
  36. Meyer BC, Raman R, Hemmen T, Obler R, Zivin JA, Rao R, Thomas RG, Lyden PD. Efficacy of site-independent telemedicine in the STRoKE DOC trial: a randomised, blinded, prospective study. *Lancet Neurol*. 2008;7:787–795. doi: 10.1016/S1474-4422(08)70171-6
  37. Chalouhi N, Dressler JA, Kunkel ES, Dalya R, Jabbour P, Gonzalez LF, Starke RM, Dumont AS, Rosenwasser R, Tjoumakaris S. Intravenous tissue plasminogen activator administration in community hospitals facilitated by telestroke service. *Neurosurgery*. 2013;73:667–671; discussion 671. doi: 10.1227/NEU.0000000000000073
  38. Switzer JA, Demaerschalk BM, Xie J, Fan L, Villa KF, Wu EQ. Cost-effectiveness of hub-and-spoke telestroke networks for the management of acute ischemic stroke from the hospitals' perspectives. *Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes*. 2013;6:18–26. doi: 10.1161/CIRCOUTCOMES.112.967125
  39. Adeoye O, Nyström KV, Yavagal DR, Luciano J, Nogueira RG, Zorowitz RD, Khalessi AA, Bushnell C, Barsan WG, Panagos P, et al. Recommendations for the establishment of stroke systems of care: a 2019 update. *Stroke*. 2019;50:e187–e210. doi: 10.1161/STR.0000000000000173
  40. Adeoye O, Albright KC, Carr BG, Wolff C, Mullen MT, Abruzzo T, Ringer A, Khatri P, Branas C, Kleindorfer D. Geographic access to acute

- stroke care in the United States. *Stroke*. 2014;45:3019–3024. doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.114.006293
41. Kamel H, Parikh NS, Chatterjee A, Kim LK, Saver JL, Schwamm LH, Zachrisson KS, Nogueira RG, Adeoye O, Díaz I, et al. Access to mechanical thrombectomy for ischemic stroke in the United States. *Stroke*. 2021;52:2554–2561. doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.120.033485
  42. McCormick R, Estrada J, Whitney C, Hinrichsen M, Lee PT, Cohen AB, Schwamm L, Matiello M. Teleneurology comprehensive inpatient consultations expedite access to care and decreases hospital length of stay. *Neurohospitalist*. 2021;11:229–234. doi: 10.1177/19418744211000951
  43. Müller-Barna P, Hubert GJ, Boy S, Bogdahn U, Wiedmann S, Heuschmann PU, Audebert HJ. TeleStroke units serving as a model of care in rural areas: 10-year experience of the TeleMedical project for integrative stroke care. *Stroke*. 2014;45:2739–2744. doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.114.006141
  44. Fatima N, Saqqur M, Hussain MS, Shuaib A. Mobile stroke unit versus standard medical care in the management of patients with acute stroke: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Int J Stroke*. 2020;15:595–608. doi: 10.1177/1747493020929964
  45. Ebinger M, Siegerink B, Kunz A, Wendt M, Weber JE, Schwabauer E, Geisler F, Freitag E, Lange J, Behrens J, et al; Berlin\_PRehospital Or Usual Delivery in stroke care (B\_PROUD) study group. Association between dispatch of mobile stroke units and functional outcomes among patients with acute ischemic stroke in Berlin. *JAMA*. 2021;325:454–466. doi: 10.1001/jama.2020.26345
  46. Wechsler LR, Demaerschalk BM, Schwamm LH, Adeoye OM, Audebert HJ, Fanale CV, Hess DC, Majersik JJ, Nystrom KV, Reeves MJ, et al; on behalf of the American Heart Association Stroke Council; Council on Epidemiology and Prevention; Council on Quality of Care and Outcomes Research. Telemedicine quality and outcomes in stroke: a scientific statement for healthcare professionals from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. *Stroke*. 2017;48:e3–e25. doi: 10.1161/STR.0000000000000114
  47. Duncan PW, Bernhardt J. Telerehabilitation: has its time come? *Stroke*. 2021;52:2694–2696. doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.121.033289
  48. Caughlin S, Mehta S, Corriveau H, Eng JJ, Eskes G, Kairy D, Meltzer J, Sakakibara BM, Teasell R. Implementing telerehabilitation after stroke: lessons learned from Canadian trials. *Telemed J E Health*. 2020;26:710–719. doi: 10.1089/tmj.2019.0097
  49. Cramer SC, Dodakian L, Le V, See J, Augsburger R, McKenzie A, Zhou RJ, Chiu NL, Heckhausen J, Cassidy JM, et al; National Institutes of Health StrokeNet Telerehab Investigators. Efficacy of home-based telerehabilitation vs in-clinic therapy for adults after stroke: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Neurol*. 2019;76:1079–1087. doi: 10.1001/jamaneurol.2019.1604
  50. Strowd RE, Strauss L, Graham R, Dodenhoff K, Schreiber A, Thomson S, Ambrosini A, Thurman AM, Olszewski C, Smith LD, et al. Rapid implementation of outpatient teleneurology in rural Appalachia: barriers and disparities. *Neurol Clin Pract*. 2021;11:232–241. doi: 10.1212/CPJ.0000000000000906
  51. Xu T, Pujara S, Sutton S, Rhee M. Telemedicine in the management of type 1 diabetes. *Prev Chronic Dis*. 2018;15:E13. doi: 10.5888/pcd15.170168
  52. Maa AY, Wojciechowski B, Hunt K, Dismuke C, Janjua R, Lynch MG. Remote eye care screening for rural veterans with Technology-based Eye Care Services: a quality improvement project. *Rural Remote Health*. 2017;17:4045. doi: 10.22605/rrh4045
  53. Russo JE, McCool RR, Davies L. VA telemedicine: an analysis of cost and time savings. *Telemed J E Health*. 2016;22:209–215. doi: 10.1089/tmj.2015.0055
  54. Armstrong DG, Holtz-Neiderer K, Wendel C, Mohler MJ, Kimbriel HR, Lavery LA. Skin temperature monitoring reduces the risk for diabetic foot ulceration in high-risk patients. *Am J Med*. 2007;120:1042–1046. doi: 10.1016/j.amjmed.2007.06.028
  55. Lavery LA, Higgins KR, Lanctot DR, Constantinides GP, Zamorano RG, Armstrong DG, Athanasiou KA, Agrawal CM. Home monitoring of foot skin temperatures to prevent ulceration. *Diabetes Care*. 2004;27:2642–2647. doi: 10.2337/diacare.27.11.2642
  56. Lavery LA, Higgins KR, Lanctot DR, Constantinides GP, Zamorano RG, Athanasiou KA, Armstrong DG, Agrawal CM. Preventing diabetic foot ulcer recurrence in high-risk patients: use of temperature monitoring as a self-assessment tool. *Diabetes Care*. 2007;30:14–20. doi: 10.2337/dc06-1600
  57. Abbott CA, Chatwin KE, Foden P, Hasan AN, Sange C, Rajbhandari SM, Reddy PN, Vileikyte L, Bowling FL, Boulton AJM, et al. Innovative intelligent insole system reduces diabetic foot ulcer recurrence at plantar sites: a prospective, randomised, proof-of-concept study. *Lancet Digit Health*. 2019;1:e308–e318. doi: 10.1016/S2558-7500(19)30128-1
  58. Bus SA. Preventing foot ulcers in diabetes using plantar pressure feedback. *Lancet Digit Health*. 2019;1:e250–e251. doi: 10.1016/S2558-7500(19)30134-7
  59. Najafi B, Ron E, Enriquez A, Marin I, Razjouyan J, Armstrong DG. Smarter sole survival: will neuropathic patients at high risk for ulceration use a smart insole-based foot protection system? *J Diabetes Sci Technol*. 2017;11:702–713. doi: 10.1177/1932296816689105
  60. Bus SA, Waaijman R, Nollet F. New monitoring technology to objectively assess adherence to prescribed footwear and assistive devices during ambulatory activity. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil*. 2012;93:2075–2079. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2012.06.019
  61. Smith-Strom H, Iglund J, Østbye T, Tell GS, Hausken MF, Graue M, Skeie S, Cooper JG, Iversen MM. The effect of telemedicine follow-up care on diabetes-related foot ulcers: a cluster-randomized controlled noninferiority trial. *Diabetes Care*. 2018;41:96–103. doi: 10.2337/dc17-1025
  62. Sanger PC, Simianu VV, Gaskill CE, Armstrong CA, Hartzler AL, Lordon RJ, Lober WB, Evans HL. Diagnosing surgical site infection using wound photography: a scenario-based study. *J Am Coll Surg*. 2017;224:8–15.e1. doi: 10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2016.10.027
  63. Najafi B, Reeves ND, Armstrong DG. Leveraging smart technologies to improve the management of diabetic foot ulcers and extend ulcer-free days in remission. *Diabetes Metab Res Rev*. 2020;36(suppl 1):e3239. doi: 10.1002/dmrr.3239
  64. Gunter RL, Fernandes-Taylor S, Rahman S, Awoyinka L, Bennett KM, Weber SM, Greenberg CC, Kent KC. Feasibility of an image-based mobile health protocol for postoperative wound monitoring. *J Am Coll Surg*. 2018;226:277–286. doi: 10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2017.12.013
  65. Mousa AY, Broce M, Monnett S, Davis E, McKee B, Lucas BD. Results of telehealth electronic monitoring for post discharge complications and surgical site infections following arterial revascularization with groin incision. *Ann Vasc Surg*. 2019;57:160–169. doi: 10.1016/j.avsg.2018.09.023
  66. Thrall JH. Teleradiology. Part I. History and clinical applications. *Radiology*. 2007;243:613–617. doi: 10.1148/radiol.2433070350
  67. Bashshur RL, Krupinski EA, Thrall JH, Bashshur N. The empirical foundations of teleradiology and related applications: a review of the evidence. *Telemed J E Health*. 2016;22:868–898. doi: 10.1089/tmj.2016.0149
  68. Rosenkrantz AB, Hanna TN, Steenburg SD, Tarrant MJ, Pyatt RS, Friedberg EB. The current state of teleradiology across the United States: a national survey of radiologists' habits, attitudes, and perceptions on teleradiology practice. *J Am Coll Radiol*. 2019;16:1677–1687. doi: 10.1016/j.jacr.2019.05.053
  69. Newby DE, Adamson PD, Berry C, Boon NA, Dweck MR, Flather M, Forbes J, Hunter A, Lewis S, MacLean S, et al. Coronary CT angiography and 5-year risk of myocardial infarction. *N Engl J Med*. 2018;379:924–933. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1805971
  70. Latchaw RE, Alberts MJ, Lev MH, Connors JJ, Harbaugh RE, Higashida RT, Hobson R, Kidwell CS, Koroshetz WJ, Mathews V, et al; on behalf of the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Radiology and Intervention, Stroke Council, and the Interdisciplinary Council on Peripheral Vascular Disease. Recommendations for imaging of acute ischemic stroke: a scientific statement from the American Heart Association. *Stroke*. 2009;40:3646–3678. doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.108.192616
  71. Park JH, Kim YK, Kim B, Kim J, Kwon H, Kim K, Choi SI, Chun EJ. Diagnostic performance of smartphone reading of the coronary CT angiography in patients with acute chest pain at ED. *Am J Emerg Med*. 2016;34:1794–1798. doi: 10.1016/j.ajem.2016.06.009
  72. Gajarawala SN, Pelkowski JN. Telehealth benefits and barriers. *J Nurse Pract*. 2021;17:218–221. doi: 10.1016/j.nurpra.2020.09.013
  73. Weinstein RS, Lopez AM, Joseph BA, Erps KA, Holcomb M, Barker GP, Krupinski EA. Telemedicine, telehealth, and mobile health applications that work: opportunities and barriers. *Am J Med*. 2014;127:183–187. doi: 10.1016/j.amjmed.2013.09.032
  74. Fischer SH, Ray KN, Mehrotra A, Bloom EL, Uscher-Pines L. Prevalence and characteristics of telehealth utilization in the United States. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2020;3:e2022302. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.22302
  75. Snoswell CL, Taylor ML, Comans TA, Smith AC, Gray LC, Caffery LJ. Determining if telehealth can reduce health system costs: scoping review. *J Med Internet Res*. 2020;22:e17298. doi: 10.2196/17298
  76. American telemedicine association applauds landmark expansion of Medicare telehealth coverage. February 9, 2018. Accessed May 4, 2022. <https://www.americantelemed.org/press-releases/american-telemedicine-association-applauds-landmark-expansion-of-medicare-telehealth-coverage/>

77. Uscher-Pines L, Mehrotra A. Analysis of Teladoc use seems to indicate expanded access to care for patients without prior connection to a provider. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2014;33:258–264. doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2013.0989
78. Schinasi DA, Foster CC, Bohling MK, Barrera L, Macy ML. Attitudes and perceptions of telemedicine in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: a survey of naive healthcare providers. *Front Pediatr*. 2021;9:647937. doi: 10.3389/fped.2021.647937
79. Connolly SL, Miller CJ, Lindsay JA, Bauer MS. A systematic review of providers' attitudes toward telehealth via videoconferencing. *Clin Psychol (New York)*. 2020;27:10.1111/cpsp.12311. doi: 10.1111/cpsp.12311
80. Fraiche AM, Eapen ZJ, McClellan MB. Moving beyond the walls of the clinic: opportunities and challenges to the future of telehealth in heart failure. *JACC Heart Fail*. 2017;5:297–304. doi: 10.1016/j.jchf.2016.11.013
81. Zachrison KS, Yan Z, Samuels-Kalow ME, Licurse A, Zuccotti G, Schwamm LH. Association of physician characteristics with early adoption of virtual health care. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2021;4:e2141625. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.41625
82. Balestra M. Telehealth and legal implications for nurse practitioners. *J Nurse Pract*. 2018;14:33–39. doi: 10.1016/j.nurpra.2017.10.003
83. Soliman AM. Telemedicine in the cardiovascular world: ready for the future? *Methodist Debaquey Cardiovasc J*. 2020;16:283–290. doi: 10.14797/mdcj-16-4-283
84. Marcoux RM, Vogenberg FR. Telehealth: applications from a legal and regulatory perspective. *P T*. 2016;41:567–570.
85. Hall JL, McGraw D. For telehealth to succeed, privacy and security risks must be identified and addressed. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2014;33:216–221. doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2013.0997
86. Cortelyou-Ward K, Atkins DN, Noblin A, Rotarius T, White P, Carey C. Navigating the digital divide: barriers to telehealth in rural areas. *J Health Care Poor Underserved*. 2020;31:1546–1556. doi: 10.1353/hpu.2020.0116
87. Baker-Smith CM, Sood E, Prospero C, Zadokar V, Srivastava S. Impact of social determinants and digital literacy on telehealth acceptance for pediatric cardiology care delivery during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. *J Pediatr*. 2021;237:115–124. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2021.06.036
88. Eberly LA, Khatana SAM, Nathan AS, Snider C, Julien HM, Deleener ME, Adusumalli S. Telemedicine outpatient cardiovascular care during the COVID-19 pandemic: bridging or opening the digital divide? *Circulation*. 2020;142:510–512. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.120.048185
89. Ekezie BF, Bushelle-Edghill J, Dong S, Taylor YJ. The effect of broadband access on electronic patient engagement activities: assessment of urban-rural differences. *J Rural Health*. 2022;38:472–481. doi: 10.1111/jrh.12598
90. Early J, Hernandez A. Digital disenfranchisement and COVID-19: broadband internet access as a social determinant of health. *Health Promot Pract*. 2021;22:605–610. doi: 10.1177/15248399211014490
91. Scott Kruse C, Karem P, Shifflett K, Vegi L, Ravi K, Brooks M. Evaluating barriers to adopting telemedicine worldwide: a systematic review. *J Telemed Telecare*. 2018;24:4–12. doi: 10.1177/1357633X16674087
92. Zachrison KS, Boggs KM, Cash RE, Burton KR, Espinola JA, Hayden EM, Sauser JP, Mehrotra A, Camargo CA Jr. Are state telemedicine parity laws associated with greater use of telemedicine in the emergency department? *J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open*. 2021;2:e212359. doi: 10.1002/emp2.12359
93. O'Sullivan JW, Grigg S, Crawford W, Turakhia MP, Perez M, Ingelsson E, Wheeler MT, Ioannidis JPA, Ashley EA. Accuracy of smartphone camera applications for detecting atrial fibrillation: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2020;3:e202064. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.2064