

Introduction

Telemedicine is the delivery of healthcare services when the health care provider and patient are not in the same physical location through the use of technology. Provider may include primary care practitioners, specialists, and/or sub specialist. Electronically transmitted information may be used for diagnosis, therapy, follow up and/or patient education, and may include any of the following:

- Patient medical information
- Medical images
- Interactive audio, video and/or data
- Output data for medical device for sound and video
- The interactive electronic systems used will incorporate network and software security protocols to protect the confidentiality of patient identification and imaging data and will include measures to safeguard the data and to insure the integrity against intentional or unintentional corruption.

Potential Benefits

1. Improved access to medical care by enabling a patient to remain in their physician's office (or at a remote site) while the physician/provider obtains test results and consults with healthcare practitioners at distant/other sites.
2. Obtaining the expertise of a distant specialist.

Potential Risks

As with any medical procedure, there are potential risks associated with the use of telemedicine. These risks include, but may not be limited to:

1. Information transmitted may not be sufficient (e.g., poor resolution of images) to allow for appropriate medical decision making by the physician and/or consultant(s).
2. The knowledge, experience, and qualification of the consultant providing data and information to the provider of the telemedicine services need not be completely known to and understood by the provider.
3. Changes in the environment and testing conditions could be impossible to make during the delivery of telemedicine services.
4. Interruptions, unauthorized access, and/or technical difficulties may occur with use of this technology. In rare instances, security protocols could fail, causing a breach of privacy of personal medical information.
5. The consulting physician(s)/provider are not able to provide medical treatment to the patient through the use of telemedicine equipment nor provide for or arrange for any emergency care that I may need.
6. Delays in medical evaluation and treatment could occur due to deficiencies or failure of the equipment.
7. A lack of access to complete medical records may result in adverse drug interactions or allergic reactions or other medical judgment errors.

- I have read and understand the telemedicine care service delivery including the risk and benefits and wish to proceed.