Telehealth Solutions: A State Perspective

Alliance for Health Reform Briefing

The Healthcare Workforce: Prescription for the Future

March 22, 2013
Center for Connected Health Policy

- CREATED WITH FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION IN 2009
- CONDUCTS RESEARCH & ANALYSIS OF TELEHEALTH POLICIES & PRACTICES
- PROVIDES ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON POLICY, REGULATORY AND LEGAL ISSUES
Established in 2006, funded by the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

Twelve regional centers

One national technology assessment center

Collectively form a network of telehealth program expertise and experience

Independently serve a designated region
What is Telehealth?

Telehealth is the use of telecommunications, health information, and videoconferencing technologies to deliver medical care, health education and public health services.
Specialty Care Access Initiative 2009-2012
Staffing Considerations

- **Administration** - leadership and stability
- **Clinical** - clinician champion to promote integration and buy-in & redefining roles
- **Technical** - technical and user support
- **Coordinator** - runs the program
50 States/ DC
Telehealth/Telemedicine
State Laws & Regulations
State Medicaid provider manuals

50 State Report

Report released
February 2013
Updates on website
PDF updated quarterly
Conclusions

State Policies

- No uniform policies across states: NOT READY FOR ACA
- States should explore telehealth policy w/contiguous states

Telehealth Utilization

- Telehealth not being utilized to fullest potential
- States should promote policies that incentivize use of the technology

Impact on Others

- Federal policies influence states’ policies
- Federal agencies should expand policies & encourage states to do the same
The Patient Centered Medical Home

- Value-based Care
- Integrated Services
- Different W.F. Mix

Desired Outcomes

Practice Organization
Heath Information Technology
Quality Measures
Patient Experience

Family Medicine
Patient-centered | Physician-directed
Project Echo

- Force multiplier using community clinicians to provide specialty care
- Now being used in many specialties (Cardiology, HIV, Chronic pain, Pulmonary, Rheumatology)
- Standardizing quality
- Rapidly spreading across the country
National Policy Reform Ideas

- **Medicare**
  - All services will be covered to the same extent whether provided in person or “via a telehealth”
  - Removal of language detailing what qualifies as a “telehealth service” (current law specifically limits it to professional consultations, office visits, etc.)
  - Eliminate limitations on Store and Forward
  - Remove the HPSA and MSA “rural” limitation on location

- **Medicaid CHIP program** – Services covered under Medicaid in a State Plan will be covered to the same extent whether provided in person or “via telehealth”
Coming April 1....

www.telehealthpolicy.us

- A one stop shop for accurate and up-to-date information on telehealth policy, legal issues and Health Information Technology
- Includes an interactive “Policy Map” that will reveal telehealth laws, regulation, state Medicaid policy and pending legislation for all 50 states and D.C.
Thank You

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