



APRN ROUNDTABLE **INSIGHTS FOR IMPACT**

April 29, 2026 • Virtual



Is Telehealth a Different Kind of Care? APRN Practice in a Virtual World

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APRN ROUNDTABLE
INSIGHTS FOR IMPACT



Disclosure

- The speaker has no financial disclosures
- The content of this presentation is for educational purposes and does not constitute legal advice
- Participants must verify current state and federal requirements for their individual practice setting and context



Objectives

- Describe telehealth applications for each APRN role defined in the Consensus Model
- Identify best practices for conducting clinical evaluations across distance
- Examine key telehealth-related practice standards to ensure public safety and maintenance of APRN licensure integrity



Telehealth Terminology



Telehealth



Telemedicine



Virtual Care



Telehealth Terminology

- Originating Site
- Distant Site



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Telehealth Modalities

- Asynchronous
- Synchronous
 - Audio Only
 - Video-Based
- Remote Patient Monitoring
- Mobile Health



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APRN Telehealth Roles



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APRN Telehealth Roles

- Tele-education
- Telementoring
- Tele-research
- Teleconsultation
- Telepractice



APRN Telehealth Roles



Telehealth
Program
Development



Program
Evaluation



Quality
Improvement
Initiatives



APRN Telepractice Roles

- Nurse Anesthetist
- Nurse-Midwife
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Nurse Practitioner



Best Practices: The Art of the Virtual Visit

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Ahead of the Virtual Visit



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Digital Equity and Inclusivity

- Digital Divide
 - Technology access
 - Connectivity
- Digital Literacy
- Digital Health Literacy
- Accessibility



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Accessibility

- Access vs Accessibility
- Federal Laws
 - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act



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Accessibility

- Safeguards and Modifications
 - Extra time before, during and after visits
 - Opportunities to become comfortable with the telehealth platform
 - Employing a platform that allows a third party to join
- Adaptations
 - Screen readers for the blind
 - Closed captioning for the deaf
 - Oral language interpreters



The ACCESS Framework

- **A**ccommodations-ensuring platforms offer features to enable equitable participation for those with disabilities
- **C**ommunication-implement aids based on individual patient needs
- **C**ustomization-based on individual patient needs
- **E**ducation-for providers and staff on disability competence
- **S**upport-ongoing technical and clinical support resources for patients with disabilities
- **S**ecurity-ensuring privacy and confidentiality

(Kobeissi & Manning, 2025)



The Virtual Visit



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Technology Standards

- Privacy and Security
 - HIPAA Compliant Technologies
 - BAA
 - Patient and provider locations
- Equipment standards
- Quality of connection



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HIPAA and *Audio Only* Telehealth

- HIPAA Covered Entities
 - Must comply with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.
 - Must comply with HIPAA Security Rule when using technology that use the internet, cellular and Wi-Fi



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Set the Stage: Telehealth Etiquette and Webside Manner

- Professional Environment
 - Provider Appearance
 - Provider Setting
 - Lighting
 - Sit at desk or table
 - Avoid visual and auditory distractions

(Garber et al., 2023)



Set the Stage: Telehealth Etiquette and Webside Manner

- Professional Performance
 - Punctuality
 - Provider Identification
 - Communication
 - Passport view
 - Webcam at eye level
 - Clear speech
 - Relationship -centered communication
 - Verbal and non-verbal cues to convey empathy



Image: Kelli Garber, personal



The Virtual Physical Exam

- Detailed History
- Select appropriate modality
- Techniques
 - Household items
- Patient self-assessment or support person
- Technology enhanced exams
 - Peripheral devices



Visual Inspection & Patient Coaching

- Patience and Creativity
- Clear verbal instructions
- Avoid medical jargon
- Guide patient through exam
- Environmental Scan



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Visit Follow-Up and Quality Assurance

- Provide clear follow-up instructions
- Ensure opportunity to ask questions
- Ensure patient has provider contact information
- Quality Metrics consistent with in-person care
- Ongoing patient safety monitoring



Modality Matters: Technical Considerations

- Audio-Only Limitations
- Video Quality
- Peripheral Devices
- Patient Technology Access



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APRN Telehealth Practice Standards

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Telehealth Governance

- Federal and state level
 - Legislation and Regulation
- Telehealth specific and broader healthcare context
 - Nurse Practice Acts
- Guidance from licensing boards
 - Advisory opinions and position statements
- Guidance from Professional Organizations



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Cross State Practice

- **Originating site** is place of service
- Licensure
 - Must be licensed in originating site unless telehealth exception exists
 - Telehealth waiver, registration or licensure
 - VA Exception
- Nurse Licensure Compact
- APRN Compact



APRN Practice Requirements

- Must abide by laws and regulations in originating site state
- Practice Authority
- Scope of Practice
- Restricted vs Unrestricted practice

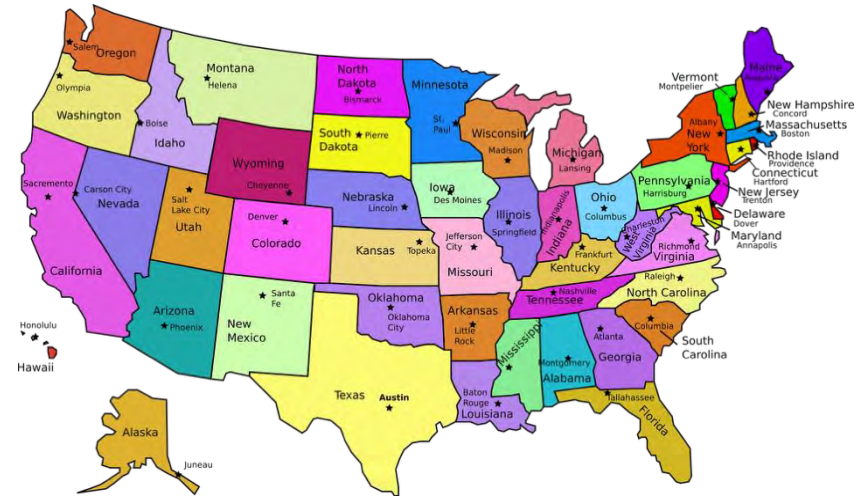


Image: Pixabay, used with permission



Prescribing

- Adhere to federal and state laws
 - DEA Requirements/Ryan Haight Act
 - Opioid Use Disorder-Buprenorphine
- Adhere to APRN Scope of Practice Regulations/Authority
- Conduct an appropriate clinical evaluation prior to prescribing
- Check prescription monitoring database if required



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Standard of Care

- Definition
- Consistent with in-person care
- Determining factors
- Significance of Compliance

Standard of care by [Nick Youngson CC BY-SA 3.0 Pix4free](#)



Standard of Care Components

- Valid Provider-Patient Relationship
- Consent for Telehealth
- Adequate Examination
- Documentation
- Prescribing
- Follow-Up



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Documentation

- Consent for Telehealth
- Visit Participants
- Patient and Provider Location
- Modality
- Technology Platform & Limitations
- Date, time, duration
- Standard of Care Elements
- Clinical documentation
- Emergency & Follow-up Protocols
- Billing Compliance



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Standard of Care

- **Helpful Tool**
 - **Telehealth Standard of Care Evaluation Matrix**

(Garber et al., 2025)



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Continual Quality Improvement

- **Program Evaluation**

- Access: affordability, accessibility, accommodation, availability
- KPIs
- Financial Impact/Cost
- Patient and Provider Experience
- Technology Effectiveness
- Clinical Quality
 - Adherence to Clinical Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment
 - Adherence to Prescribing Guidelines



Case Study



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- Case Presentation
- Debrief

****This is a fictitious case and is not intended to represent an actual patient or legal case.



Resources

- Center for Connected Health Policy
<https://www.cchpca.org/>
- National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers
<https://telehealthresourcecenter.org/>
- HRSA Office for the Advancement of Telehealth
https://www.hrsa.gov/telehealth?utm_campaign=OATannouncements20250107&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- Center for Telehealth Innovation, Education and Research (C-TIER) <https://telehealtheducation-ctier.com/>



Questions?



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