ONC & Telehealth

Guiding the Federal Health IT Agenda

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ONC Telehealth Activities and Opportunities

Further telehealth adoption and interoperability

Expand access to health and care and improve health equity

Incorporate telehealth in emerging/advanced health models

Ensure privacy and security protections
As the principal federal entity charged with coordination of nationwide efforts to implement and use the most advanced health information technology and the electronic exchange of health information, ONC promotes telehealth adoption as part of building a learning health system to help achieve these goals.

“A learning health system also incorporates advanced health models that increasingly leverage technology, such as telecommunications technology to deliver health and clinical services remotely, that improve access to care across clinical and non-clinical community settings.”

Source: Connecting Health and Care for the Nation: A Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap- Draft Version 1.0
The Draft Federal Health IT Strategic Plan 2015-2020 identifies the federal government’s health IT priorities. It focuses on federal strategies, recognizing achieving the vision and goals requires collaboration from state, local, and tribal governments.

Draft goals include:

- Expanding the adoption and use of a health IT including a broader set of technologies such as telehealth and mobile health.

- Advancing a national communications infrastructure that supports health, safety, and care delivery - this includes having the ability to deliver telehealth solutions and to use mobile health applications enabled by broadband.

- Improving health care quality, access, and experience through safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable, and person-centered care - this includes using telehealth to help improve access to and quality of health care services.

- White Paper to focus on the key considerations for designing and enabling consumer-centered telehealth experiences.

- Identifies challenges in the current state environment including payment for telehealth services; physician licensure; and, care fragmentation.

- Identifies design principles for use cases as part of the future of telehealth.
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