Telehealth

Joanne Reid
Project Manager - Telehealth
Telehealth is defined as the use of communications and information technology to deliver health care services over large and small distances, including remote and rural areas.
Telehealth will focus primarily on videoconferencing equipment. This is an interactive technology that enables patients and health providers at distant sites to interact ‘face-to-face’.
BENEFITS OF TELEHEALTH

Consumers

• Decrease patient travel

• Decrease patient stress due to travel 
  *(cost, distance, inclement weather, illness)*

• Increased access to specialty services regardless of geographical location

• Continuity of care *(augment current practice)*
Health Care Providers

• Decrease physician/clinician travel & time away from health care institution

• Relationship building with colleagues *(outside greater St. John’s area)*

• Opportunity for knowledge transfer /education
Regional Integrated Health Authorities

Newfoundland & Labrador 2009

Regional Integrated Health Authorities
- Central Health Authority
- Eastern Health Authority
- Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority
- Western Health Authority
- Telehealth Video Sites
Mobile Videoconferencing Camera
Technology
Teledentistry
Security

- Confidentiality & Privacy
- Encrypted secure network
- Provide a private area for consultation
- Introduce all participants at each site
- No videotaping of consult (*without written consent*)
Duty of Care

- Same as face-to-face
- Liability
- Legally responsible to the level of the expected competence, as defined by the training and licensing authority
- Working within scope of practice
- Does this need to be documented and communicated?
- Who will be responsible for this documentation and how?
Telehealth Applications

- Oncology
- Neurology - Rehab
  - OT
  - Pain Management
    - Paed/Adult
  - PT
- Mental Health
  - Paediatric
  - Adult
- Nephrology
- Diabetes Management
- Medical Genetics
- Child Development
Consultants

- Physician / Clinician
- RN
- Dietician
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Genetic Counselor
- Social Worker
Telehealth Consults

Clinical

• Initial Assessment
• Follow-up
• Pre-op
• Discharge Planning
• Counseling
• Case Review / Presentation
Tele-Education & Rounds
Contact Information

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