Reaching Rural Areas through Technology

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I have no relevant disclosures.
Expanding Access to Palliative Care

Valley View Hospital
Glenwood Springs, CO
www.VVH.org

University of Colorado Hospital
Anschutz Medical Campus
Leverage Technology

Telemedicine
Video Visits
Meet the Needs

Improve the quality of life of people living with serious illness and their loved ones.

Value-based goals of care

Match what matters most to the next steps in the person’s medical care.
Interdisciplinary Team: The Whole and the Parts
1) Needs of the patient and family
2) Team wellness; address burnout
3) Staff retention
Benefits of Telemedicine

- Increased Access to Healthcare
- Improved Healthcare Outcomes
- Reduced Costs
- Fewer In-Person Consultations

Telehealth Start Up and Resource Guide 2014
https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/telehealthguide_final_0.pdf
Workforce: Non-Traditional Training Programs

- Master of Science in Palliative Care (MSPC)
- Advancing Innovation in Residency Education (AIRE) pilot program
Outcomes

• 19 patients seen in 1st 4 months (Jan – May 2018)
• 95% of patients found it helpful
• 26% increase in advance care planning documents
• 30 patients not seen due to limited program availability
  -2 half days per week
Telemedicine Summary

• Access
  - Leverage technology to increase the reach of palliative care

• Workforce Shortage and Pipeline
  - Leverage MSPC and AIRE
  - Self-sustaining local interdisciplinary palliative care team

Next Steps

Bring telemedicine to the patient’s home
Policy Action Items

Expand

Medicare reimbursement for telemedicine

Add/expand

Benefits for home-based palliative care services
-Include 24/7 crisis response

Eliminate

Cost-sharing so patients don’t have co-pays for video visits

Expand

Graduate medical education funding
-Medicare-funded graduate medical education fellowship slots for training interdisciplinary palliative care team specialists
-Grants to support providers in community specialist training programs
Thank you!