

Reaching Rural Areas through Technology

Jeanie Youngwerth, MD

University of Colorado Hospital and School of Medicine
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director, University of Colorado Hospital Palliative Care Service

jean.youngwerth@cuanschutz.edu

uchealth

I have no relevant disclosures.



Expanding Access to Palliative



VALLEY VIEW

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



**University of
Colorado Hospital**

ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



Leverage Technology

Telemedicine Video Visits

lucehealth

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





- 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



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

-Home-based: The Telehealth Enhancement Act of 2015

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!