

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

The Use of Telehealth For Evaluations: Audiology

NASEM Workshop-March 9, 2022

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Audiology and Speech Pathology National Program Office

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)



BACKGROUND

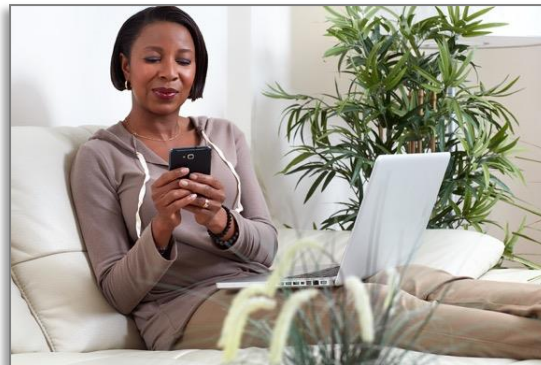
A LITTLE BIT
ABOUT
me...





VISION

VA will leverage telehealth technologies to enhance the **accessibility, capacity, and quality** of VA health care for Veterans, their families, and their caregivers anywhere in the country.



U.S. Department
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PRIORITIES

- Accessibility
 - Bring care to the Veteran
- Capacity
 - Match clinical supply and demand
- Quality
 - Provide the right care at the right time





VA TELEHEALTH DEFINITIONS

■ Telehealth:

- The use of electronic information or telecommunications technologies to support clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health, and health administration at a distance.

■ Telehealth Modalities:

■ Synchronous

- Real-time videoconferencing between VA medical centers and CBOCs that replicates face-to-face care between patient and provider
- VA Video Connect (VVC)- VA Video Connect is a VA solution that enables Veterans to virtually meet-up with their VA healthcare providers, in something called a *virtual medical room*, using encrypted video to ensure the session is secure and private

■ Asynchronous

- Acquisition, storage, and forwarding of clinical images to experts for review

■ Home Telehealth (Remote Patient Monitoring)

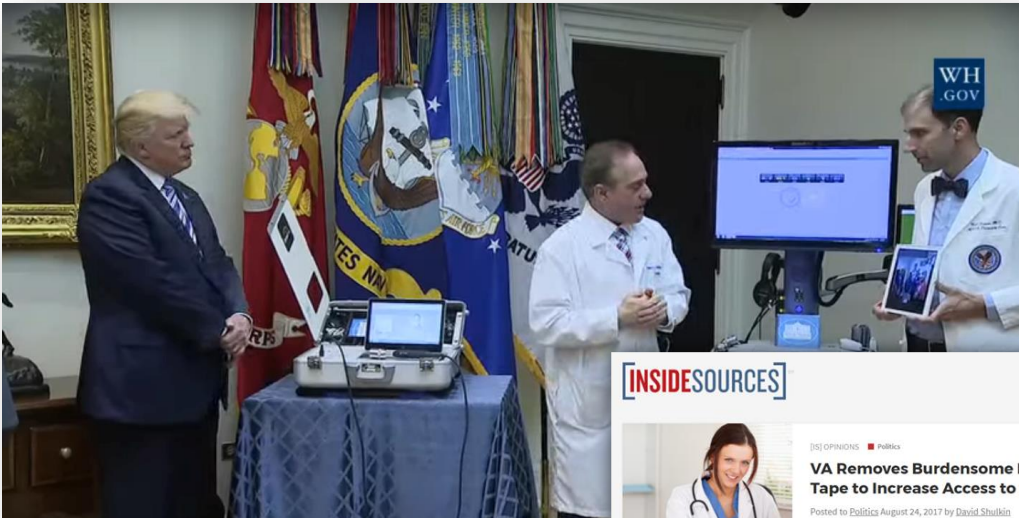
- Monitors patients and manages diseases through video into the home and use of mobile devices for acute and chronic management and health promotion/disease prevention



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ANYWHERE TO ANYWHERE



[INSIDESOURCES]

VA Removes Burdensome Red Tape to Increase Access to Care

Posted to Politics August 24, 2017 by David Shulkin

Imagine the day that you can see your medical provider from anywhere in the country including from the comfort of your own home. You wouldn't have to take a full day off of work, travel long distances, or spend hours in a hospital waiting room. Thanks to the age of smart phones and other advanced technology, that day has come. And it couldn't have come at a more critical moment.

Across the nation, wait times in the private sector for new patient appointments have increased 30 percent in the past three years including major cities such as Seattle, Boston, Denver and Los Angeles, according to a recent survey.

Telehealth technology is revolutionizing how Americans access healthcare. Healthcare professionals have been utilizing this technology for years, but with significant limits. Only a few states allow medical providers to use telehealth to practice across state lines, severely limiting the potential impact of this technology.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Our GREAT VETERANS can now connect w/ their VA healthcare team from anywhere, using [#VAVideoConnect](#) - available at: [mobile.va.gov/appstore](#).

Introducing #VAVideoConnect for our GREAT VETERANS!

We are expanding the ability of veterans to connect w/ their VA healthcare team from anywhere, using a mobile app on their phone/computer. This will significantly expand access to care for our HEROES!

2:07 PM - 3 Aug 2017

11,806 Retweets 48,765 Likes



LEGAL AUTHORITY

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 17

RIN 2900-AQ06

Authority of Health Care Providers To Practice Telehealth

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

(b) *Health care provider's practice via telehealth.* (1) Health care providers may provide telehealth services, within their scope of practice, functional statement, and/or in accordance with privileges granted to them by VA, irrespective of the State or location within a State where the health care provider or the beneficiary is physically located. Health care providers' practice

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/05/11/2018-10114/authority-of-health-care-providers-to-practice-telehealth>

1. Anywhere to Anywhere Telehealth Legislation signed into law as part of the VA MISSION Act on June 6, 2018. The June 6 law and the June 11 regulation/rule (see 2. below) will eventually merge.
2. Anywhere to Anywhere Telehealth Regulation published as final in the Federal Register with effective date of Monday June 11, 2018.



TELEAUDIOLOGY PORTFOLIO

- Synchronous
 - Remote diagnostics, fittings, and follow ups
 - Audiologic Rehab and Tinnitus Education
 - Remote Cochlear Implant Programming
 - Remote fine-tuning for hearing aids into the home
- Asynchronous
 - Asynchronous hearing testing with images



BOOTHLESS AUDIOMETRY NETWORKING GROUP

The DoD/VHA Boothless Audiometry Networking Group (BANG) collaborates, shares, and gathers information from Audiology leaders, clinicians, and researchers to increase awareness, understanding, and capabilities, and to leverage boothless audiometry to provide timely (or on time) access to hearing health services.

	KUDUwave Prime	KUDUwave Pro	KUDUwave Tymp	AMTAS Pro	AMTAS Flex	Edare	SHOEBOX PRO	SHOEBOX STANDARD	SHOEBOX Quicktest
AC Diagnostic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
AC Screening	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BC Screening		✓	✓	✓			✓		
BC Diagnostic		✓	✓	✓			✓		
Speech SRT		✓	✓	✓			✓		
Speech WRS		✓	✓	✓			✓		
Masking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Automated	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manual	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
HC technician/provider	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Audiologist	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Tympanometry			✓						

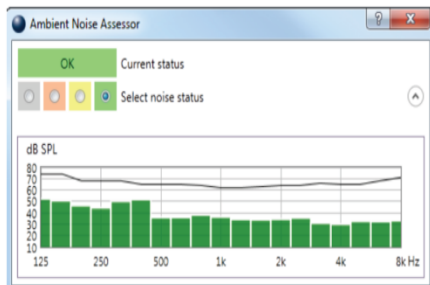
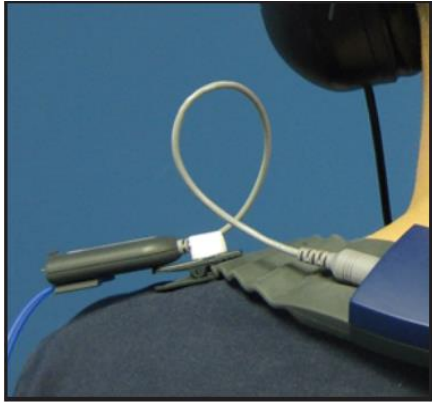


SYNCHRONOUS TELEAUDIOLOGY

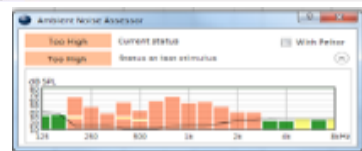
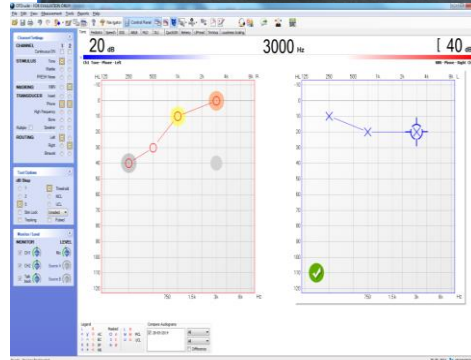




SYNCHRONOUS TELEAUDIOLOGY



View of ANA, as seen by the
VAMC-based audiologist during
speech testing.





HEARING AID REMOTE PROGRAMMING

- Increases Veterans' access to care by enabling remote access to VA hearing aid services from the Veteran's home via smartphone or tablet
- Synchronous methods:
 - Oticon, Phonak, Resound, Sivantos, Starkey



VA workstation



Veteran's Telephone



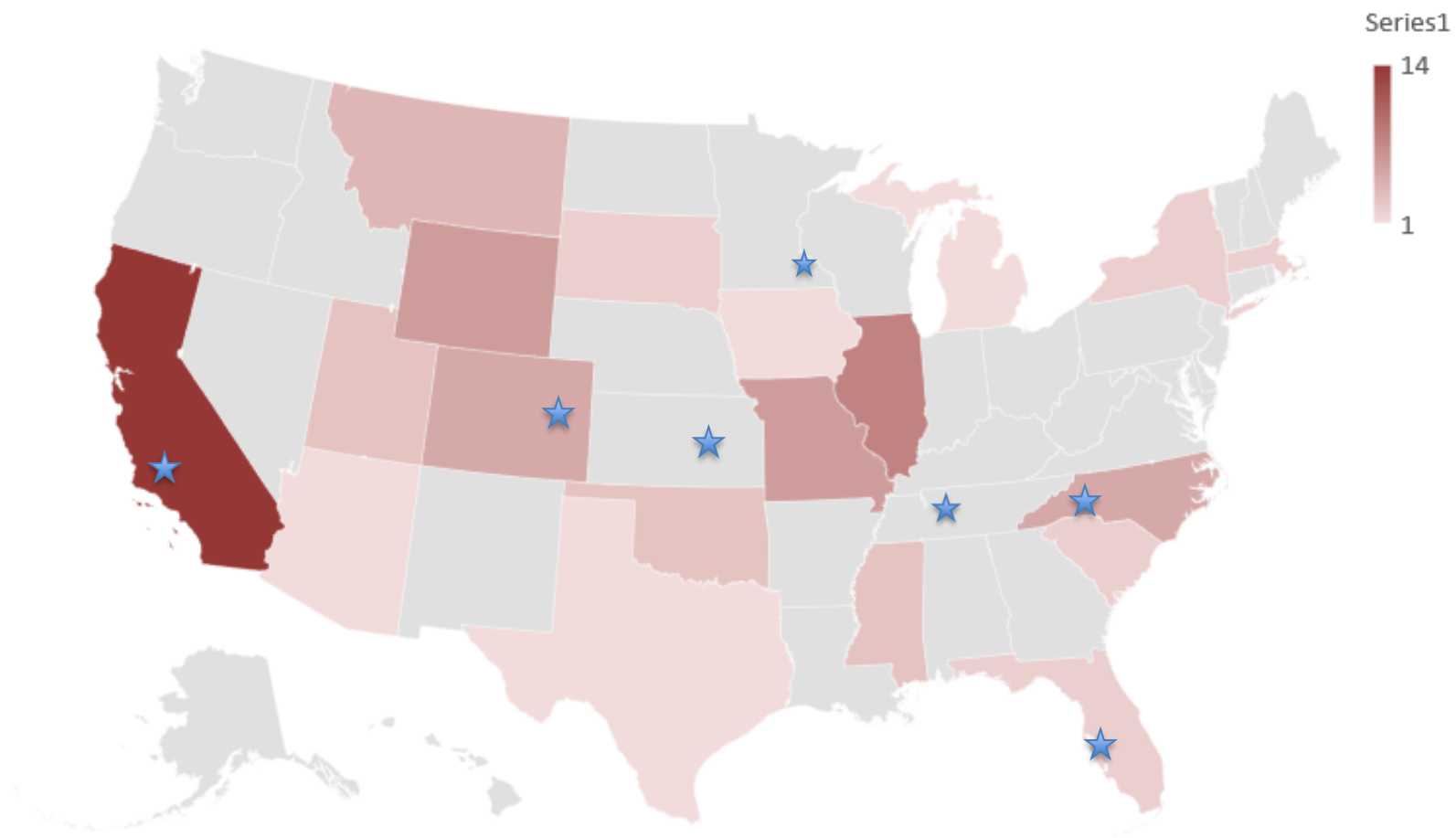
ASYNCHRONOUS TELEAUDIOLOGY ROLLOUT

- VISN 19 Hub and Spoke Pilot for Best Practices and Enterprise Model
- Office of Connected Care Expansion Initiative
 - 50 automated units for asynchronous telehealth to be deployed (~100 nationally)
 - Individual kick-off meetings with sites to discuss New Program Checklist and Implementation



ASYNCHRONOUS EQUIPMENT

Current and Pending Asynchronous Audiology Telehealth VA sites



Powered by Bing
© GeoNames, Microsoft, TomTom



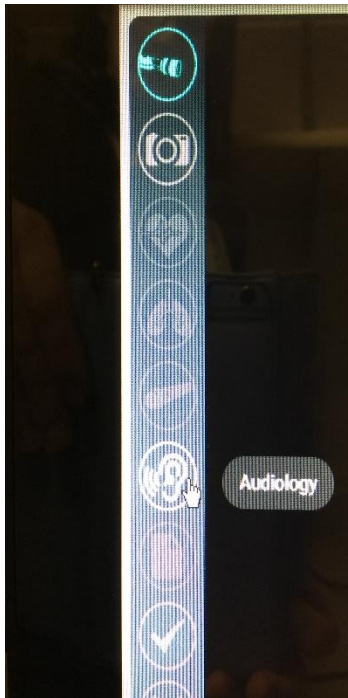
FY22 TABLET TESTING

- Self-administered hearing screening on a tablet for at-home telehealth
- Current testing at VA sites to ensure integration of the data into patient's EMR
 - My VA images





ASYNCHRONOUS-AUTOMATED AUDIOMETRY





ASYNCHRONOUS-AUTOMATED AUDIOMETRY

Listen for a TONE.



2%

gsi
GSI Systems

Did you hear the TONE?



YES



NO

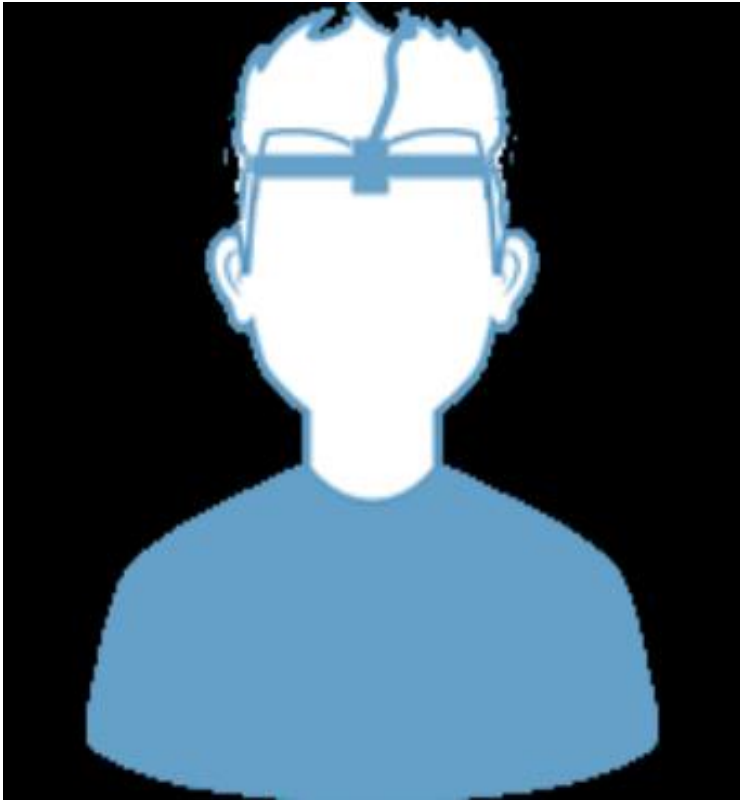
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gsi
GSI Systems

- AC/BC (including all interoctaves)
- Brief Instructions



TRANSDUCER PLACEMENT



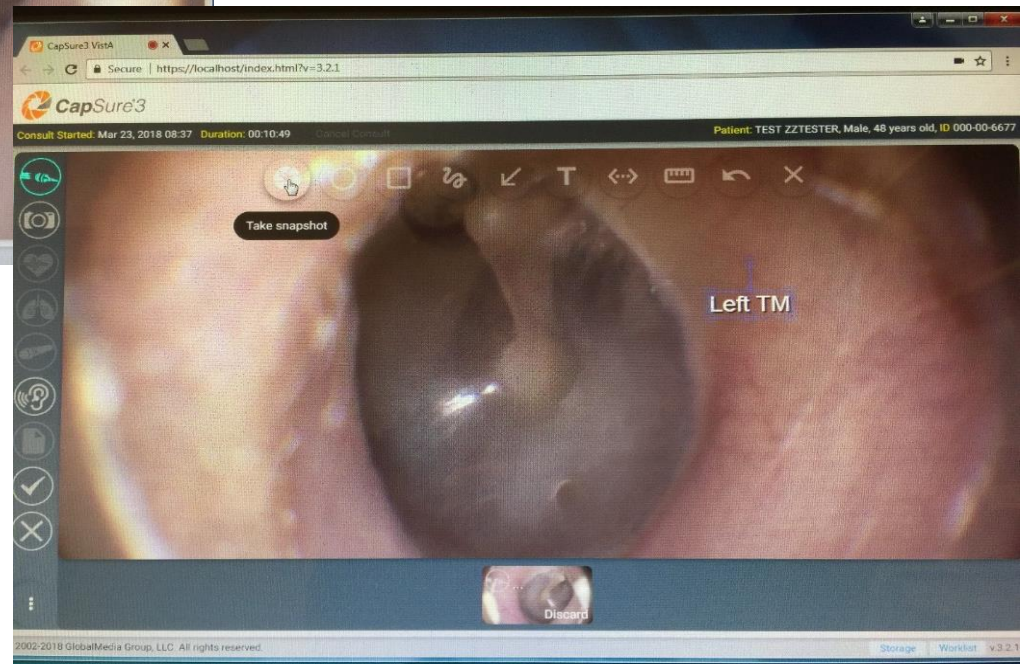
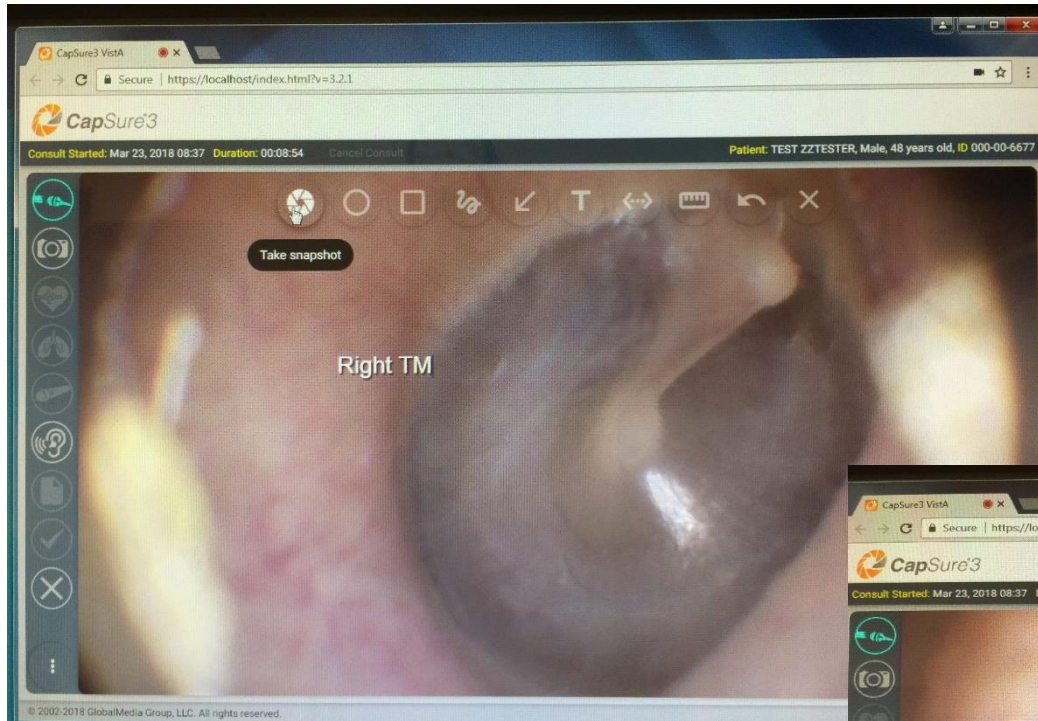


VIDEO OTOSCOPY





VIDEO OTOSCOPY





EXTERNAL EAR IMAGES





EXTERNAL EAR IMAGES

RIC Conversion Chart

Phonak

0 = 15-20 mm
1 = 21-26 mm
2 = 27-31 mm
3 = 32+ mm

Oticon

1 = 15-20 mm
2 = 21-26 mm
3 = 27-32 mm
4 = 33-38 mm
5 = 39+ mm

Resound

0 = 19-22 mm
1 = 23-26 mm
2 = 27-30 mm
3 = 31+ mm

Starkey

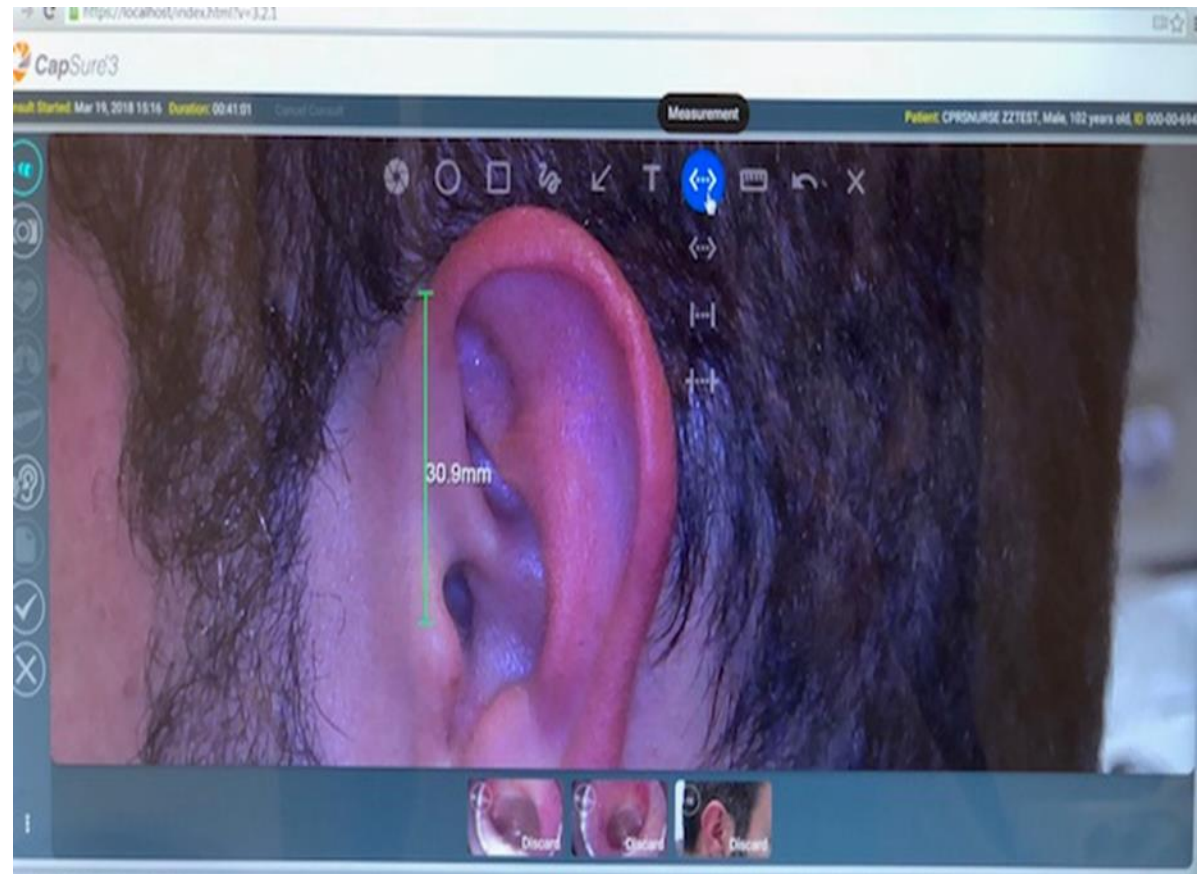
1-2 = 22-26 mm
3-4 = 26-30 mm
5 = 31+ mm

Widex

-2 = 17-20 mm
-1 = 21-24 mm
0 = 25-28 mm
1 = 29-32 mm
2 = 33-36 mm
3 = 37-40 mm
4 = 41-44 mm
5 = 44+ mm

Siemens

0 = 19-23 mm
1 = 24-28 mm
2 = 29-33 mm
3 = 33+ mm



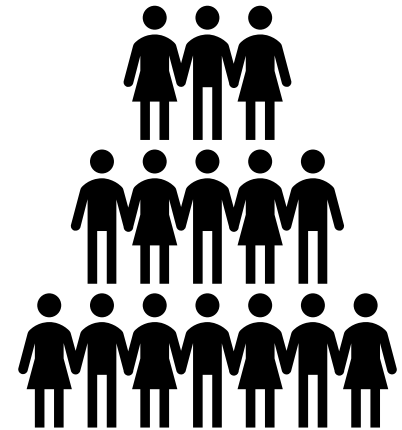
Measurement in mm converted to RIC sizes



TELEAUDIOLOGY PRECEPTOR PROGRAM

Expectations for FY22

- Expand number of Superusers
- Development of workshop-based Preceptor Pilot Program
- Synchronous and Asynchronous Telehealth Providers
- TMS courses developed to enable standardization of Telepresenter and Imager TeleAudiology education in a decentralized model.



TO CARE FOR HIM WHO SHALL
HAVE BORNE THE BATTLE AND
FOR HIS WIDOW, AND HIS ORPHAN
A. LINCOLN

