

Program Overview

The telehealth program trains health professionals in the practice, coordination, and delivery of telehealth through initiatives, programs and services. The program emphasizes the utilization and management of health information systems and technologies in the delivery of patient care.

Curriculum

DHS 8820 - Telehealth Concepts, Applications and Future Trends

This course introduces the foundational concepts of telehealth that clinical practitioners need to effectively use health technologies and systems. By participating in mock leadership committees (small team collaborations), you will gain experience in managing and critiquing telehealth programs.

Solidify foundational skills in telehealth. (Introductory course designed for health professionals)

Gain an understanding of the technology that supports telehealth.

(No prior technology expertise needed.)

DHS 8825 - Technological Infrastructures of Telehealth

This course focuses on the technology and information systems that facilitate telehealth programs or services. You will demonstrate competence in telehealth infrastructures through project-based assessments and experiential learning.

DHS 8830 - Strategic Planning for Telehealth Programs and Services

Throughout this course, you will hone decision-making skills related to governing and coordinating telehealth initiatives. Training includes an emphasis on problem-solving, case study analysis, and strategic planning as related to health information systems and technologies. Topics include healthcare regulations and compliance, coordination of care, systems development life cycle, project management and healthcare analytics.

Practice the delivery of telehealth across diverse clinical settings. (Assignments mirror the "Real world" of telehealth)

Please visit http://healthsciences.nova.edu/ for more information

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I seek training in telehealth?

Telehealth derives from the term telemedicine—the practice of healthcare delivery via telecommunications—has been in existence since the dawn of the U.S. space program of the 1960s whereby astronauts were monitored during missions (WHO, 2010) using video and audio technologies. However, with the advancement of technology (e.g., robotics, smart phones, the Internet), telehealth has incurred a renaissance.

More specifically, telehealth has exponentially grown in the last decade—from a modest \$100 million market in 2012 to an expected market value worth over \$1 billion by 2022 (Grand View Research, 2016). This means that the healthcare industry is undergoing a transformation through the new era of telehealth. The telehealth sector is expected to incur this significant growth because it no longer encompasses merely video and audio—it involves robotics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and other advanced technologies.

Many health professionals do not receive formal training on the technologies used by the industry. For this reason, completion of the telehealth training at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) will enhance your skills for the contemporary practice of healthcare. The telehealth program at NSU includes a competency-based curriculum delivered across three courses. You may complete the program in less than a year.

You do not need any expertise in technology to complete the program. All health professionals seeking to expand their skills are welcome-including Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurses, Audiology Assistants, Dentists, Public Health Professionals, Health Care Administrators, or any health professional seeking to improve their skills within the industry.

YOU MAY COMPLETE TELEHEALTH TRAINING IN LESS THAN ONE YEAR.

What services may be delivered via telehealth?

Telehealth encompasses the delivery of healthcare services facilitated by technology; thus, the possibilities are vast and only limited through the technology available. According to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) (2016) and the Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP) (2017), the practice of telehealth typically involves one or more of the following:

> 1. Provider-to-patient services called *telemedicine* (e.g., telepsychiatry, telesurgery)

2. Augmented patient care called *telehealthcare* (e.g., remote home monitoring)

Scope of Telehealth

- 3. Patient engagement called e-health and/or health education
- Information management across the healthcare continuum such as the Health Information 4. Exchange (HIE).

Therefore, the types of services possible are very diverse—including patient encounters, robotic surgery, at-home health monitoring—just to name a few examples.

How does telehealth operate within a clinical setting?

Reimbursement

The delivery of healthcare services via telehealth is covered by Medicare, including consultations, care management, health screenings, outpatient evaluation, wellness visits, critical care encounters, among other services (CMS, 2016). Although private insurers have previously had limited or no coverage for telehealth, the industry has changed considerably in recent years with the provision of telehealth coverage seen as cost-effective and supporting quality healthcare access (Herman, 2016).

Logistics

The use of telehealth can vary significantly, depending on the clinical setting, scope of practice, and investment in technology. Telehealth can operate as simple as virtual patient encounters (e.g., telepsychiatry) and home health monitoring through device sensors or as complex as telesurgery--the use of robotics by surgeons to perform operations over long distances. Therefore, the landscape of telehealth practice is vast and full of possibilities.

Regulations

According to the CCHP (2017), no two states approach telehealth regulatory policy the same way. Since telehealth has had a re-birth with the advancements in technology over the last decade, it may take time for state-level regulations to evolve with the industry trends. For current information on regulations within your state, please visit the interactive telehealth policy map by CCHP at this web address:

http://www.cchpca.org/statelaws-and-reimbursement-policies

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