

Predicted Impacts: Telehealth



Investment in telehealth will continue to grow, despite inconsistent laws between states, though widespread adoption will depend on comprehensible and consistent laws across states.

Telehealth will become more prevalent among physicians participating in alternative payment models—such as accountable care organizations and bundled payment programs—due to incentives placed on providing cost-efficient care.

Pushes to make telehealth available in metropolitan areas will lead CMS to cover telehealth services for a larger portion of the population.

Increasingly, the patient population will favor the convenience of telehealth, even at the expense of the traditional patient-physician relationship.

The increasing prevalence of high-deductible health plans that place greater out-of-pocket costs on patients will incentivize patients to seek lower-cost telehealth alternatives when possible.

More widely available telehealth services will lead to lower costs of individual care and increased utilization of health care services, increasing overall demand.

The continued combination of RPM and telehealth services will provide a more complete picture of patient health to physicians offering telehealth, provided that these data are presented on integrated, intuitive platforms.

As telehealth becomes more widely available, patient populations will require education about which conditions are appropriate for telehealth.

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