



Proposal for Telemedicine in Long Term Care

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Proposal:

Challenge LTC leaders and caregivers to

1. Create a Long Term Care
Telemedicine Resource for Hawaii
2. Use Healthcare Connect Funds to
pay for it

Problem:

Time and distance
create barriers between
patient need and
clinician knowledge

Situation:

- Hawaii LTC patients do not receive quality and costs benefits from TM

Background:

- 48 nursing homes, 4300 beds, 4000 patients
- 260 ARCH homes with 1500 patients
- Difficult to find LTC bed
- Penalties for readmissions and ED visits
- \$14 billion Medicare costs for SNF transfers to hospital
- 25% of MC admissions are readmitted within 30 days
- 8% are readmitted within 48 hours

Assessment:

Causes of high admission rates-

- No physician presence 24x7 & “telephone exams”
- Difficulty of staff explaining clinical problem
- Culture of hospitalization

Benefits ,of TM–

- Provide specialized care quicker
- Improve competitive advantage of facility
- Manage family expectations of care
- Savings SNF \$150,000 per year with telemedicine
- Decrease penalties from PAH by 30 to 70%
- Decrease hypoglycemia for diabetics using TM
- LTC Physicians believe TM improves quality of care

Request:

1. Organize a LTC TM community resource
2. Pay for LTC TM with Healthcare Connect Fund
 - a. Fed program subsidizing broadband costs for TM
 - b. Facility must be a member of an HCF consortium
 - c. Lonestar HCF consortium in Texas, Maine, and Hawaii
 - d. 65 – 85% reduction in facility broadband costs
 - e. Use HCF savings to pay for telemedicine applications

Suggestions, Questions, References:

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