Telehealth in Vascular Care
The Future is Here!!!

John (Jeb) Hallett, MD, FACS
Chief Innovation Officer
Roper St Francis Health Care
Clinical Professor of Surgery
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

What is telehealth?
(also telemedicine or virtual care)

The delivery of healthcare using electronic methods of communications to connect patients and providers at geographically separate locations

What is the most important telehealth device???

There are now more smartphones in the world than toilets!

Disclosure
Nonpaid consultant to

Tele-conferencing
Store and forward
e-ICU monitoring
Mobile health monitors

Telehealth devices:

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- Store and forward
- e-ICU monitoring
- Mobile health monitors

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What is the potential for telehealth in vascular care

- At least 50-70% of initial and established patient visits
- 100% of early post-procedure follow-up
- Critical in “hardwiring” best medical Rx for diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, smoking cessation and regular activity
- Critical for reminding patients of established visits (Vascular Quality Initiative)

But, what can we do now or soon in vascular care with telehealth?

Two important “virtual care” opportunities for clinically coordinated vascular care

- The “virtual” vascular surgery clinic visit or consultation
- Remote post-procedure “house calls” to optimize care and detect issues that lead to readmission

The “virtual” remote site office visit or consultation

Necessity is the “mother of innovation”

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The “virtual” office visit

- 18 chronic returns with one ischemic rest pain with ulcer
- Encrypted hospital smart phones
- Experienced medical assistant backed up by cardiologist on site
- Charged appropriate E & M codes with “GT” modifier
- Patients wanted to reach through “video screen and hug me!”
58 yo smoking WF with rest pain and early ulcers

ABI = 0.30
Toe pressure 12 mm Hg

All done “virtually”

- Smoking cessation discussion
- Best medical Rx reviewed
- Discussion of angiogram and possible options
- Scheduled angiogram at Roper Heart and Vascular Center within 7 days

Another opportunity for virtual care in vascular surgery

The other opportunity in vascular care: the remote, “home calls and rounding”

Remote, interactive “daily home rounding”

Vascular Surgery “Remote Rounding”

18% of Patients Responded with an Alert

That alert prevented readmission in over 98% of vascular patients who underwent an open or endovascular procedures
Does continual virtual interaction improve control of risk factors?

Intervention = continual telehealth interaction


What other risk factors can be monitored and “driven down?”

- Blood pressure
- Heart rate
- Blood glucose
- Blood cholesterol
- Blood triglycerides
- Serum creatinine
- Blood alcohol level

Remember this......

- Telehealth systems offer a lot to the care of vascular patients
- The technologies are now available
- The reimbursement issues are being solved
- Now, we need to engage vascular specialists in providing more virtual care to an increasing number of Medicare patients