



## Telehealth Now and in the Future

It is hard to believe only 28 percent of providers offered telehealth in 2019. [Then, the primary driver for implementing telehealth was patient convenience, and the top concern was ensuring telehealth is covered by malpractice.](#)

Fast forward just six months, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the adoption of telehealth is now commonplace.

Because of COVID-19, [the Trump administration and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) eliminated previous regulatory requirements](#) regarding rurality, practitioner types and settings where telehealth could be used. Health care practitioners quickly implemented new methods of care to keep potentially positive COVID-19 cases evaluated and monitored, the “worried well” healthy and the chronic care patient supported.

Telehealth care has many benefits beyond COVID-19, as it can be used across specialties and [is cost effective](#). [While there are improvements that can be made](#) around payment, broadband coverage, continued learning and practitioner/patient engagement to help telehealth care realize its true potential, many already agree the advantages outweigh the challenges.

Numerous organizations such as the American Hospital Association, the American Academy of Family Practitioners and the American Physical Therapy Association are appealing to federal and state congressional members to legislate into law the flexibilities currently granted practitioners to conduct telehealth. [The Trump administration also issued an executive rule](#) requesting the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop new strategies, policy recommendations and regulations to improve rural health overall and specific regulations to extend telehealth beyond the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health supports [the American Hospital Association’s position statement](#).

If your practice has a telehealth success story, we would love to hear it! Please email us at [telehealthhelp@mpqhf.org](mailto:telehealthhelp@mpqhf.org).

For more information, education and resources about adopting telehealth, [visit our telehealth support services webpage](#).