



**Department  
of Health**

**Medicaid  
Redesign Team**

# **Breakout C:**

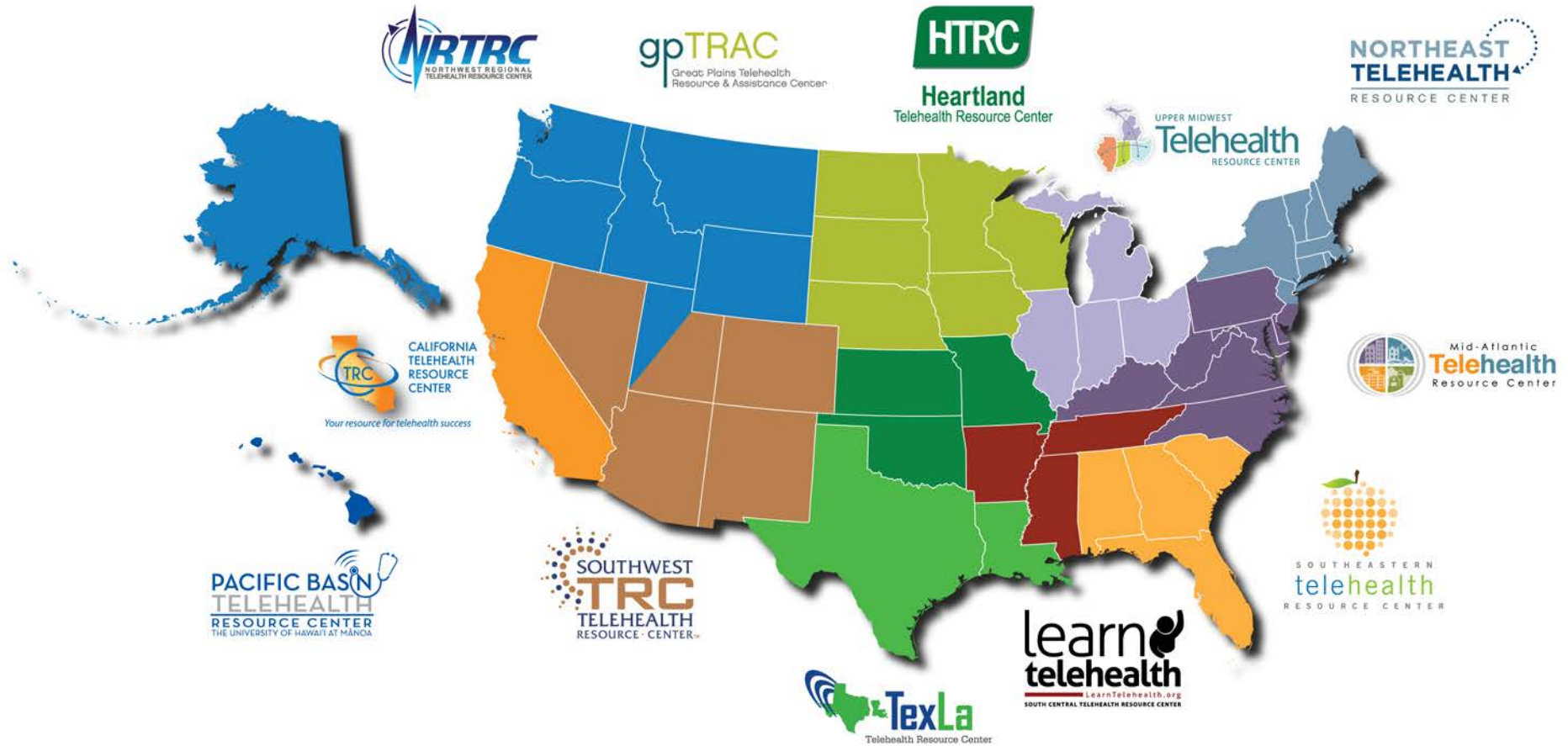
## **Telemedicine Innovations**

# Telemedicine Innovations: An Introduction

New York DSRIP 2016 Statewide Learning Symposium  
September 21, 2016

**Andrew Solomon, MPH**  
Project Manager  
NETRC, MCD Public Health

# TelehealthResourceCenters.org



**TTAC**  
TelehealthTechnology.org  
National Telehealth Technology Assessment Resource Center

**Center for Connected Health Policy**  
The National Telehealth Policy Resource Center

2 National Resource Centers

NRTRC	gpTRAC	NETRC
CTRC	HTRC	UMTRC
SWTRC	SCTRC	MATRC
PBTRC	TexLa	SETRC

12 Regional Resource Centers

# About Us



[www.netrc.org](http://www.netrc.org)



[www.mcdph.org](http://www.mcdph.org)



[www.uvmhealth.org](http://www.uvmhealth.org)

# Who do we serve?

- ✓ Individual Providers
- ✓ Community & Urban Hospitals
- ✓ Academic Institutions
- ✓ National, State, or Regional Associations
- ✓ Federal, State, Regional, or Local Government Agencies
- ✓ Legislators/Policy makers
- ✓ Health Systems
- ✓ Rural Clinics
- ✓ Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
- ✓ Critical Access Hospitals (CAH)
- ✓ Primary Care Clinics
- ✓ Ambulatory Care Centers
- ✓ Nursing Homes
- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Vendors
- ✓ *and many others!*

# We provide:

- ✓ Short and long term technical assistance services for organizations
- ✓ Education for the telehealth workforce
- ✓ Access to educational materials
- ✓ Access to specialized tools + templates
- ✓ Access to telehealth experts willing to share their experiences
- ✓ Monthly newsletter updates and other alerts on telehealth in the northeast
- ✓ Support for collaboration that fosters a favorable environment for telehealth
- ✓ *And more!*



# Save the Date!

## Taking Telehealth **Mainstream**

*NETRC's Regional Telehealth Conference*

**May 23-24, 2017**

Amherst, MA

Join us for hands-on workshops, engaging plenary sessions, a variety of breakout presentations from regional programs, and plenty of networking!

[www.netrc.org/conference](http://www.netrc.org/conference)



# Historical Background



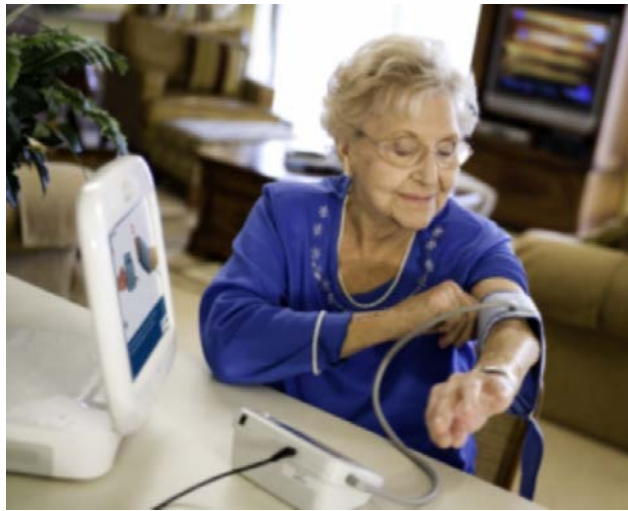
*The Teledactyl* (Gernsback, Science and Invention Magazine, 1925)

A doctor visits the Jetson's home by video in 1962 (Smithsonian.com)





# Telehealth Today



# Where is telehealth?

- Academic Medical Center
- Airplane
- Boat
- Celebrity Tour Bus
- Coal Mine
- Community Health Center
- Community Mental Health Center
- Disaster Zone
- FQHC
- Home
- Hospital
- Public Health Dept.
- Public Library
- Nursing Home
- Oil Rig
- Prison
- Refugee Camp
- Retail Pharmacy
- Rural Health Center
- Public School
- Space Ship
- *And Many More!*

# Select Telehealth Uses

- Behavioral Health
- Burn
- Cardiology
- Dentistry
- Chronic Care Management
- Dermatology
- Education / Grand Rounds
- Emergency Services / Trauma
- Family Planning
- Genetics
- Home health
- Infectious Disease
- Medication Adherence
- Neurology /Stroke care
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Pain Management
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Palliative Care
- Primary Care
- Psychiatry
- Radiology
- Rehabilitation
- Rheumatology
- Surgical
- Wound Care
- *And more!*

# Benefits of Telehealth

Increased patient access to providers (travel)

Timelier access to providers

Improved continuity of care and case management

Reduced use of institutional care

Improved access to training and other educational services

Cost savings in care delivery

Reduction or prevention of complications, decreased readmissions

Patient Satisfaction

# Challenges for Telehealth

Start-up costs  
and connection  
fees

Availability of  
broadband or  
other

Need for training and  
workforce development

Increase in staffing  
demand in some  
instances

Provider pushback

Slow/confusing legal and  
regulatory landscape

# National Updates

- Medicare reimbursed a total of **\$17.6 million in Calendar Year 2015** (< 0.003%), up from \$61,302 in Calendar Year 2001.
- Telehealth often discussed as a tool in alternative payment models and value-based care (see Next Generation ACO).
- The Department of Veterans Affairs requested **\$1.2 billion for telehealth programs in FY 2017**, treated 677,000 veterans through telehealth in fiscal year 2015.
- **AMA adopted a [new policy](#)** on June 12, 2016 that outlines ethical ground rules for telehealth.





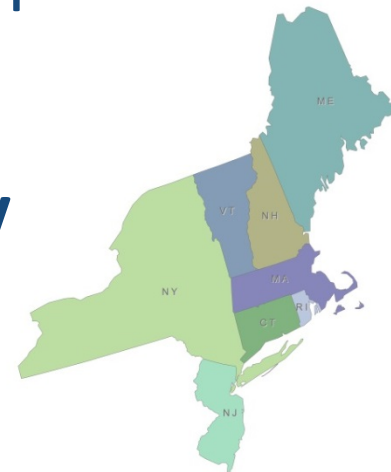
# National Updates

- 17 States have enacted legislation to join the **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**, which is expected to help streamline the licensure process.
- AHRQ review (June 2016) found that the largest volume of research on telehealth available produced **positive results for chronic conditions and behavioral health**, and when providing counseling and monitoring/management, while additional research in other areas is needed.
- Federal DHHS Report to Congress (August 2016) cited that **61% of health care institutions currently use some form of telehealth**.



# Telehealth in the Northeast

- Programs and policy traditionally more active in **northern, rural parts of region**, but conversations about urban access grows
- Increasing interest in **home telehealth services, including Direct-to-Consumer**
- Increasing interest from **private practitioners**, many providing behavioral/mental health services
- **Significant policy and regulatory activity** throughout the region



# Telehealth in New York

- One of the most active NETRC states!
- The NYS Board of Professional Medical Conduct charged a Special Committee to draft an [ethical statement on the practice of telehealth](#) in 2000.
- NYS Medicaid began reimbursing for specialty consultations via telemedicine in 2006, most recent update was in March, 2015 (see [Sept. 2011](#) and [Mar. 2015](#) Medicaid Updates).
- Governor Cuomo signed into law [AB 2552](#) in March, 2015, **requiring coverage of telehealth services by private payers and Medicaid** (AKA the Telehealth Parity Law).
- NYS Office of Mental Health adopted an [updated regulation on telepsychiatry services](#) on August 31, 2016.

# Telehealth Programs in the Northeast: a Small Sampling

# Primary Care by Boat

## Maine Seacoast Mission (ME):

- 110 years old with history of spiritual and medical care provided by nurses visiting the islands.

## Program Description:

- Telemedicine started 14 years ago to four islands visited by Sunbeam- going off island for a medical appointment can be a 2- 3 day trip.
- Primary Care provided on 5 islands, 3 by Sunbeam and two land-based units operated by trained medical assistants.



# School-based Telepsychiatry

## Athol Hospital/Heywood Healthcare (MA):

- Critical access, non-profit acute care hospital serving 9 Communities in North Quabbin Region.

## Program Description/Setup:

- Collaborative program between hospital, school district, and behavioral health, supported by grant funds.
- Benefits include less time away from school/work
- Connected to one school last year and expanding this year!



*Photos courtesy of AMD Global Telemedicine*



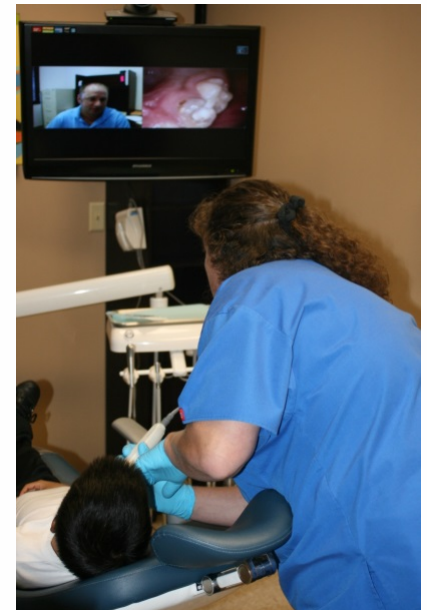
# Pediatric Teledentistry

## Finger Lakes Community Health (NY):

- Community/Migrant Health Center (FQHC) with 9 sites

## Program Description:

- Uses point-to-point telehealth network to connect clinic pediatric patients in rural NY with dental providers in Rochester, NY.
- Benefits include:
  - Decreased travel time for patient/families and Health Liaisons
  - Treatment and follow-up compliance rates > 90%



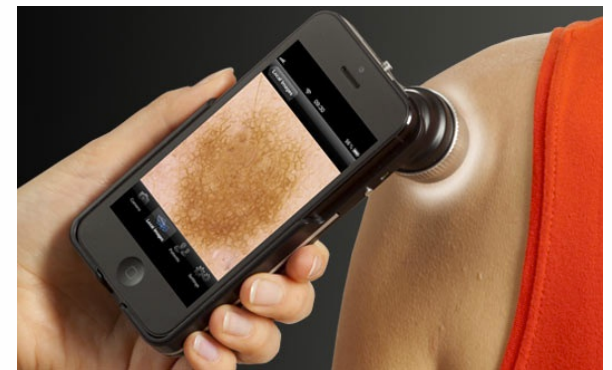
# Teledermatology

## University of Vermont Medical Center (VT):

- Academic medical center with a five-hospital network in VT and northern NY.

## Program Description/Setup:

- Uses Access Derm, a free, HIPAA-compliant application sponsored by American Academy of Dermatology to facilitate referrals from primary care providers for remote dermatology consults using mobile devices and the internet (store and forward).
- Outcomes of pilot included:
  - Post-implementation: 44 SAF consults
  - Average response time of SAF consult: 9.2 hrs
  - Average wait for appointment: 12.9 days vs. 60.2 days for traditional consults (**78.6% reduction**)



# Remote Patient Monitoring

## Home Health Visiting Nurses (ME):

- Fully licensed not-for-profit provider of home health care (nursing, PT, OT, speech, home health aide, and counseling services) 24/7 throughout 3 counties.

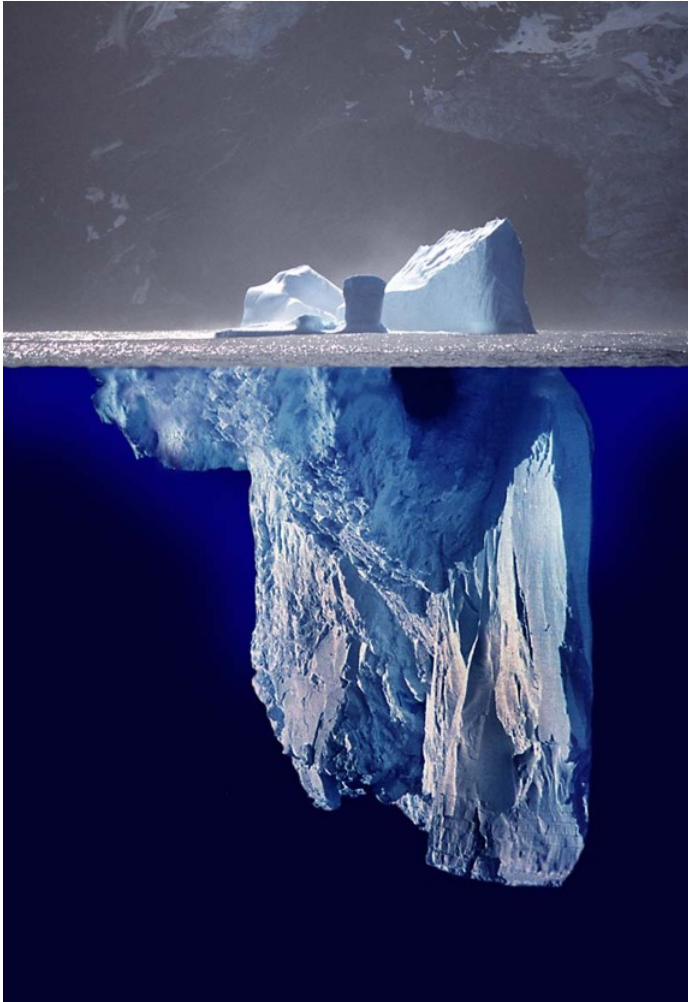
## Program Description:

- 4G tablet with pre-loaded software and peripherals (scale, pulse oximeter, BP monitor, etc.) at patient home
- Algorithms highlight patients at ↑ risk for readmission
- Served 474 Patients (CHF, COPD, Diabetes) 4/2015– 4/2016;
  - Patient Adherence: 85%;
  - 75% reduction in overall 30-day readmission rate (4.2% compared to state average of 16.6%)

# Tips to Get Started

- Find a **champion**
- Think big, **start small**
- Focus time, effort and \$ on **program development and a sustainable business model** – technology is the easy part!
- **Keep technology simple** when possible – what fits your needs and budget?
- **Reach out** to folks who have already done this!
- **Lead advocacy efforts** for program development and policy growth

# Tip of the Iceberg!



## Questions that NETRC receives include:

- Reimbursement
- Program development
- Strategic planning and market analysis
- Licensing & credentialing
- Malpractice & liability
- Regulations & other legal considerations
- Internet prescribing
- Technology selection
- Security, privacy, & HIPAA compliance
- Workforce development and training
- Best practices and networking
- Tools, sample forms, templates, etc.
- Program evaluation
- Research and Supporting Evidence
- *And more!*

# Resources

- **Northeast Telehealth Resource Center**  
[www.netrc.org](http://www.netrc.org)
- **National Telehealth Resource Centers**  
[www.telehealthresourcecenters.org](http://www.telehealthresourcecenters.org)
- **Center for Connected Health Policy**  
[www.cchpca.org](http://www.cchpca.org)
- **Telehealth Technology Assessment Center**  
[www.telehealthtechnology.org](http://www.telehealthtechnology.org)
- **American Telemedicine Association**  
[www.americantelemed.org](http://www.americantelemed.org)
- **Center for Telehealth & e-Health Law**  
[www.ctel.org](http://www.ctel.org)
- *And many great regional programs willing to share!*



# Contact Us



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**[www.netrc.org](http://www.netrc.org) | 800-379-2021**



# Community Partners of WNY PPS

## Telemedicine Project Implementation: Strategies and Lessons Learned

DSRIP Statewide Learning Symposium

Dr. Carlos Santos

9-21-16

# CPWNY PPS Telemedicine Project Team

- **Erie County**

- Carlos Santos, MD – CPWNY; DSRIP Medical Director; Project Lead
- Mark Gburek – CPWNY; Program Administrator

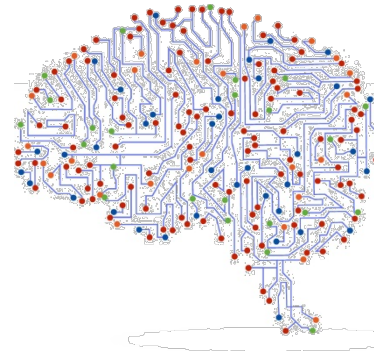
- **Chautauqua County**

- Dan Johnson – Women Christian Association (WCA) Hospital; Director of Rehabilitation Services
- Dan Tota – WCA Hospital; Director of Physician Services



# Project Overview

- CPWNY & WCA Hospital Partnership
  - Vendor Selection
  - Contractual Agreements
  - First Pilot Location
- Clinical Areas of Focus
  - Inpatient Neurology
  - Outpatient Neurology
  - Acute Critical Care



# Future Expansion Opportunities

- Behavioral Health

- Triaging Intellectually/Developmentally Disabled (I/DD) population
- Partnering with People Inc. and 24/7 Online Care
- Other opportunities

- Maternal Fetal Medicine

- Partnering with WCA Hospital on project
- Identified service need in rural area
- Professional vs technical component

- Others... TBD



# Pilot Project: ED Triage for Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled (I/DD) Population

- I/DD services comprise 1.5% - 2.5% of total Medicaid population in NYS
- I/DD population consumes 12% -18% of total NYS Medicaid budget
- ED utilization is significant factor; 2x greater use than general Medicaid population
- Care of I/DD population is highly regulated; neglect factor
- Use of telehealth for triage of preventable ED visits
- Reinforces PCP relationship rather than ED reliance
- Potential cost savings





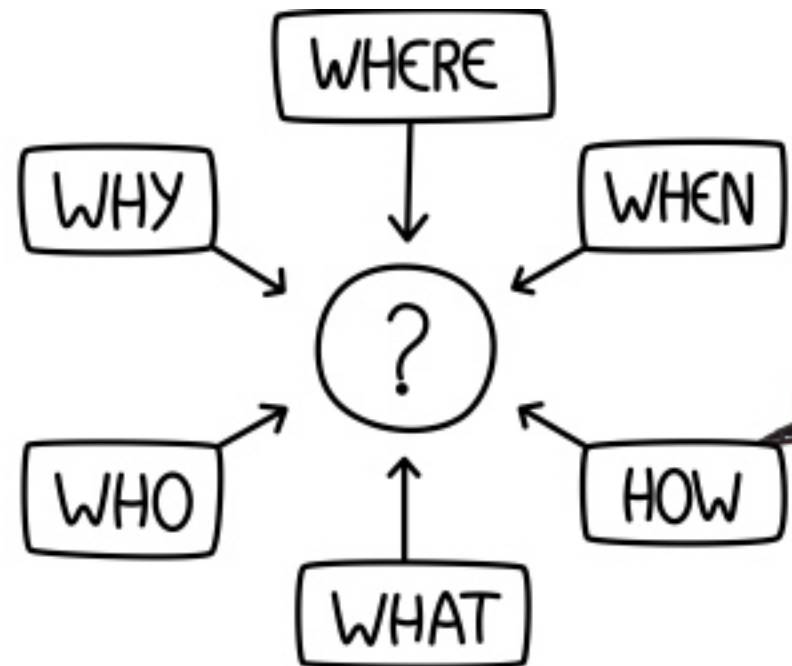
# Vendor Selection

- Criteria for selection
- RFP process
- Credentialing issues
- Licensing Issues
- Area of expertise
- Outpatient/Inpatient
- Billing Issues



# Request For Proposal (RFP) Process

- Strength and stability of contracted vendor
  - Financial performance
  - Customer service results
  - Timeliness of response
- Strategic direction
  - Support of PPS's goals
- Exclusivity of services
  - Non- compete agreements



# Contractual Agreements

- Vendor Contracts: identify responsible party
- Vetting Process
- Legal responsibilities of each party
  - Compliance with state and federal laws and regulations
- Potential of hidden costs
- Scope of contract
  - Pro-forma estimation of utilization
  - Equipment maintenance
  - Connectivity with redundancy
  - Staff training



# NY Telehealth Parity Law (Article 29-G PHL)

- Effective January 1st 2016
- Defined broadly as: “ the use of electronic information and communication technologies by a health care provider to deliver health care services to an insured individual while such individual is located at a site that is different from the site where the health care provider is located”
- Specific details of services covered governed by type of policy
- For NYS Medicaid “ the use of synchronous, two-way electronic audio visual communications to deliver clinical health care services, including the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of a patient, while such patient is at the originating site and a telehealth provider as at a distant site.”



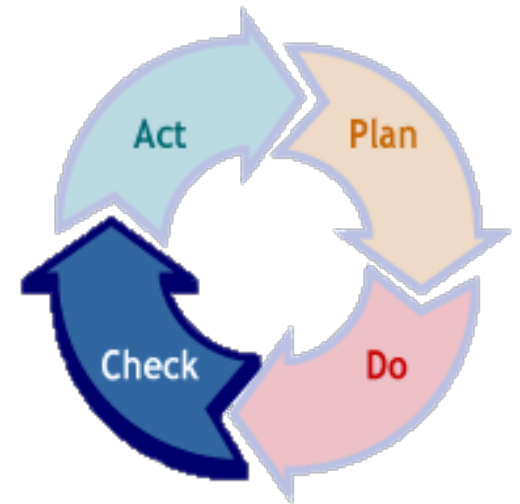
# NY Telehealth Parity Law (Article 29-G PHL)

- Approved Patient Locations
  - Licensed Art 28 and or 40 facilities
  - Mental health providers
  - Private physician office
  - Within NYS
  - Nurse Practitioners eligible to provide services
  - Patient cannot be at home



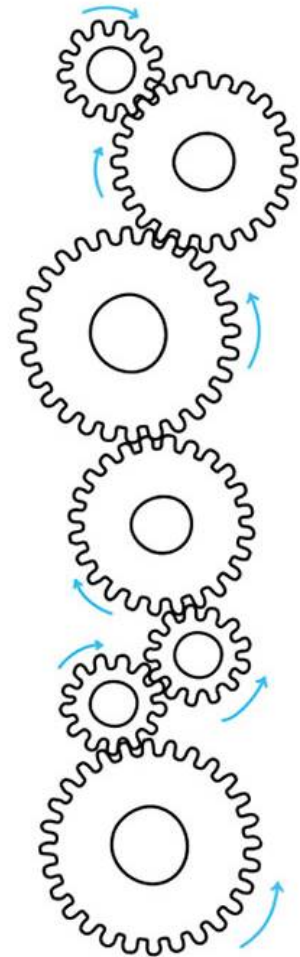
# Pilot Projects

- Identification of areas of need
- Internal versus external use of resources
- Documentation of encounters
- IT platforms
- Measurement of results



# Challenges

- Engagement
  - Lack of understanding by care providers
  - Educational opportunities
- Contractual Agreements
  - HIPPA Compliance
  - Credentialing Issues
- Collaboration of Multiple Parties
- IT
  - Connectivity
  - Disparate EMR communication
- Cost
  - Billing and reimbursement





# Thank you!

- Questions?
- More information at [wnycommunitypartners.org](http://wnycommunitypartners.org)



# The Telemedicine Experience at WCA Hospital



Dan Johnson  
September 21, 2016



# TEL MEDICINE

## ▶ Goal of the program:

- To improve access to specialty care previously limited or unavailable to patients in our community.
- Provide care close to home.

# The Telemedicine Experience at WCA Hospital

- ▶ SOC provides 24/7 access to board-certified, fellowship-trained neurologists/intensivists
  - 30 minute response for urgent cases.
  - Same day response for non-urgent cases.
- ▶ WCA Hospital has credentialed:
  - 24 teleneurologists
  - 17 teleintensivists



# The Telemedicine Experience at WCA Hospital

- ▶ Interdisciplinary Team Created at WCA Hospital for Teleneurology/Intensivists Programs:
  - WCA Administrative Co-leaders
  - Medical Director of WCA Emergency Department
  - Medical Director of Hospitalist Program
  - Nursing Department (VP Nursing, ED and ICU Nurses Managers)
  - IT
  - Radiology
  - Credentialing



# The Telemedicine Experience at WCA Hospital

- ▶ September 2015 – Weekly Conference Calls With SOC Lead/WCA Team Began (Neurology)



# The Telemedicine Experience at WCA Hospital

## ▶ How the Process Works:

- Need for teleconsult identified.
- Informed consent obtained.
- SOC contacted, information shared, urgency determined.
- Specialist connects to telemedicine cart, interviews/examines patient with assist from physician/nurse.
- Specialist discusses impression with patient along with recommendations/discusses with attending physician.
- Consult is faxed within an hour.



# The Telemedicine Experience at WCA Hospital

- ▶ Go LIVE for Acute/Emergency and Routine Teleneurology

January 21, 2016





# The Telemedicine Experience at WCA Hospital

Since inception of WCA Hospital  
Telemedicine Program:

**90 Teleneurology Consults**

# The Telemedicine Experience at WCA Hospital

- ▶ SOC Conference Calls With WCA Team Began for **Intensivist Program**
  - **February, 2016**



# The Telemedicine Experience at WCA Hospital

- ▶ Training Completed/Onsite Visit
  - April 12, 2016



# The Telemedicine Experience at WCA Hospital

Since inception of WCA Hospital  
Telemedicine Program:

**6 Intensivist Consults**

# The Telemedicine Experience at WCA Hospital

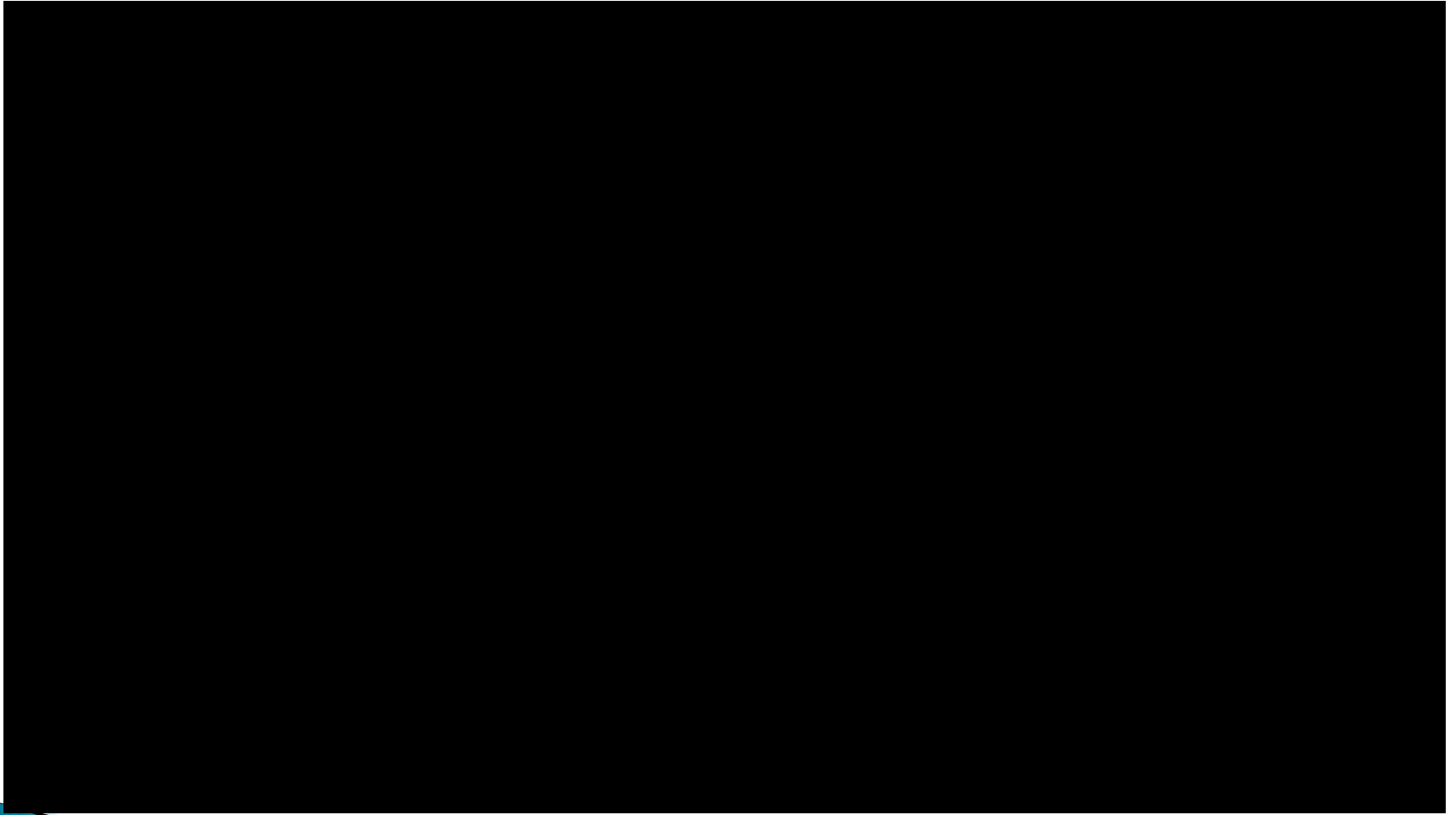
## ▶ WCA Overall Experience:

- SOC has been a very good partner.
- SOC has been very responsive to WCA's needs.
- Very few technical difficulties.

## ▶ Program Challenges:

- Credentialing significant number of specialist physicians has proven very time-consuming.
- Tele-intensivist Program has been slow to evolve/taking initiative to engage physicians.

# *21st Century Medicine at WCA: Telemedicine Video*



*Thank you*

# Q&A and Discussion



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