There’s no doubt we’ve seen a rise in the accessibility of telehealth services during COVID-19. Increased funding and flexibility from Congress is helping to make this happen. A recent study in the Journal of the American Informatics Association reported that between March 2 and April 14, virtual urgent care visits at NYU Langone Health grew by 683% and non-urgent virtual-care visits grew by 4,345%! Telehealth is reaching more people who need care. Needless to say, we probably won’t return to where we were pre COVID-19.

Practitioners are looking for ways to adopt and/or telehealth practices and the Heartland Telehealth Resource Center website has a number of educational videos available to help those new or experienced with telehealth.

The Telehealth Straight Talk series features discussions with providers on how they implemented telehealth in their practices as well as innovations they use to improve patient
care. Other video series include best practices for telehealth presenting, improving health literacy in telehealth, and insights on how nurses and providers are using telehealth to reach patients. Telehealth Rocks also hosts a number of telehealth educational videos related to telebehavioral therapy.

Also, please consider joining the HTRC's and Missouri Telehealth Networks ECHO on Telemedicine where you can learn, discuss, and ask questions from telehealth experts. The ECHO is free and held every Tuesday from 9a to 10a. You can learn more about the ECHO and register, [here](https://em-ui.constantcontact.com/em-ui/em/page/em-ui/email#details/activity/1b2ac47a-2c48-4bff-b653-208fc8a6cd30).

There are still a lot of ongoing changes in light of COVID-19. Please [contact us](https://em-ui.constantcontact.com/em-ui/em/page/em-ui/email#details/activity/1b2ac47a-2c48-4bff-b653-208fc8a6cd30) with questions you have about telehealth practices and your organization's needs.

**EVENTS**

**HTRC Telehealth Webinar Series**

**Teledentistry overview and update with Dr. Nathan Suter, DDS**

June 2, 2020

12-1 p.m. CST

**REGISTER NOW!**

**HTRC Webinar Series:**

**June 2, 2020**

**12-1 p.m. CST**

Dr. Nathan Suter, DDS, CEO of Access Dental, will provide an overview of implementation of successful teledentistry programs.

Dr. Suter was an early innovator in the area of telehealth dentistry in Missouri, and was named Missouri Dental Association 2019 Dentist of the Year. Dr. Suter will provide a practical overview of teledentistry, new technologies, and coordination between primary medical care and dentistry through teledental solutions.

An update will also be provided on current federal and state policy in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kansas related to the provision of teledentistry services, including an update on regulatory changes related to COVID-19.

[Register here](https://em-ui.constantcontact.com/em-ui/em/page/em-ui/email#details/activity/1b2ac47a-2c48-4bff-b653-208fc8a6cd30).
The Heartland Telehealth Resource Center will present a series of webinars on June 2, July 7 and August 4. Update will be provided on current regulation and policy changes in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

There is no cost to participate in the series, but registration is required. CME and continuing education is available.

**Future sessions will cover:**
- **July:** Veterans and Telehealth
- **August:** Federal Policy, Regulations and Reimbursement

**REGISTER HERE**

### Funding Opportunities

#### FCC ANNOUNCES COVID-19 TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

**New Program Will Provide $200 Million to Support Health Care Providers and Patients Across the Country During the Coronavirus Outbreak**

The Federal Communications Commission’s Wireline Competition Bureau began accepting applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program on Monday, April 13, 2020. The COVID-19 Telehealth Program will provide $200 million in funding, appropriated by Congress as part of the CARES Act, to help health care providers furnish connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information and the dedicated application portal are available at: [www.fcc.gov/covid19telehealth](http://www.fcc.gov/covid19telehealth)

#### USDA Announces Second Application Window for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program Funding

**$72 Million Available to Help Rural Residents Gain Access to Health Care and Educational Opportunities**

The USDA is opening a second application window for funding under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant program, beginning April 14 and lasting through July 13, 2020. The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program helps rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. Information and Application materials are available at: [https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants](https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants)

#### Hospitals receive Emergency Oklahoma Universal Services Fund (OUSF) for Telemedicine bandwidth:

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission has developed a COVID-19 OUSF Emergency Response Process to get funds approved for bandwidth increases. Hospitals, Schools, and Libraries currently receiving funding should reach out to their service provider directly to request an increase in bandwidth during the designated emergency period. Healthcare providers, if this change puts your Federal funding in jeopardy, we are hereby committing to cover your services. This is a public safety matter and cannot be delayed.

Upon request from a hospital for increased bandwidth under this program, OUSF Service Providers (telecommunications carrier) should immediately submit the form provided in the link below to request immediate approval of bandwidth increases for eligible entities. [https://www.occeweb.com/pu/OUSF/OUSF_COVID19.htm](https://www.occeweb.com/pu/OUSF/OUSF_COVID19.htm)

**SHOW-ME ECHO: TELEMEDICINE**
Stay up-to-date with the latest changes in telemedicine with the Telemedicine ECHO offered by the HTRC and Missouri Telehealth Network (MTN) for providers in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma **every Tuesday from 9a to 10a.**

Topics include reimbursement, operations, regulations, best practices and more. It's a great way to learn from and collaborate with telehealth leaders and physician experts. It's no cost to participating sites or individuals.

Register at [ShowMeEcho.org](https://showmeecho.org).

**COVID-19 ECHOes**

**Missouri Telehealth Network** COVID-19 ECHO will meet via Zoom videoconferencing every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. Anyone interested in learning how to protect, diagnose and treat Missouri patients with COVID-19, as well as how to protect their overall community, are encouraged to join. A multidisciplinary expert team led by Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director Randall Williams, MD, will share the latest developments, answer questions, and discuss management of patient cases presented by participants. Register and learn more [here](https://showmeecho.org).

**Oklahoma State University-Center for Health Sciences** has launched a COVID-19 Oklahoma Update ECHO to keep healthcare providers updated as the situation changes. This ECHO will be held weekly every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30 a.m. until further notice. Please register [here](https://showmeecho.org).

**COVID-19 Resources**
You can access the resources, here. Please share with others who could benefit from the information. We will continue to add and update resources as they come available.

Heartland Telehealth Resource Center | 4330 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Fairway, KS 66205

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