



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Advancing Excellence in Health Care

www.ahrq.gov

Setting the Research Agenda for Telehealth

Robert Mayes

Senior Advisor, Health Information Technology
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

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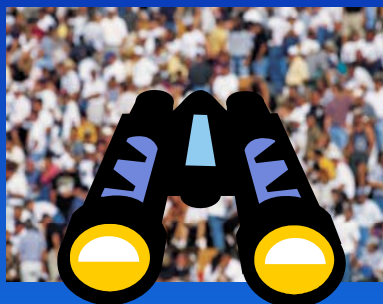
Research At HHS

What is AHRQ's "Space?"



NIH

Biomedical research to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases



CDC

Population health and the role of community based interventions to improve health



AHRQ

Long-term and system-wide improvement of health care quality and effectiveness



AHRQ's Mission

Improve the quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness of health care for all Americans





Core Values and Principles

- Focus on
 - Generation,
 - Synthesis, *and*
 - Dissemination of knowledge
- Convene key stakeholders
- Inform policy



The Health IT Portfolio

■ Three Broad Goals

- Increase the use of electronic medication management systems and technologies to support prescription drug management.
- Develop and disseminate health IT evidence and evidence-based tools to improve the utilization of evidence-based care
- Develop and disseminate health IT evidence and evidence-based tools to improve patient-centered health information management, particularly across transitions in care.



Health IT Research Funding



- Over 175 *projects and demonstrations*
- Focus on the adoption of health IT
- Projects in 43 states
- Best practices that can improve quality of care



AHRQ's Telehealth Projects

- Nearly 10% of current grants and contracts
- Most projects focused on ambulatory care settings
- Covered a wide spectrum of activities
 - Remote service delivery/telemonitoring
 - Tele-consultation
 - Education (both patient and provider)



Current Issues

- Financing
 - Business case/ROI
 - Reimbursement policies
- Impact of regulation/licensing
- Security/Confidentiality/Privacy
- Technical support
- Connectivity



However



Where HIT is

- Current HIT paradigm
 - Data-centric
 - Record oriented
 - Encounter-based
 - Service provider focused
- To a large extent telehealth is viewed as a way of extending the current practice model and as a discrete set of activities



...and everyone else

- Current IT paradigm
 - Communication/network-focused
 - Find-ability
 - Process-oriented
 - Consumer focused
- In this model, where does telehealth begin and end?



New challenges

- Identity management
- Role of social networking
- Workflow
- Interface design
- Privacy/Confidentiality/Security



Funding Opportunities

- Career Development (3-5 years)
- Dissertation Support (9-17 months)
- Program Announcements
 - R03 small research grants
 - R21 exploratory/development research grants
 - R18 research demonstration grants
- Competitive contracts
- <http://www.ahrq.gov/fund/>



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Questions?

<http://healthit.ahrq.gov>

Robert Mayes
Robert.Mayes@ahrq.hhs.gov