
Abstract

Implementation of Tele dermatology for Veterans in the United States

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Abstract

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has adopted tele dermatology, predominantly asynchronous, as an important strategy for improving access to expert skin care for its 9 million enrolled veteran patients. Despite the measurable success of its tele dermatology program, one-fifth of all points of care have yet to implement tele dermatology. The application of implementation science approaches offers the opportunity to systematically understand the VA's tele dermatology experience to yield insights into and lessons for implementing tele dermatology widely as well as locally. Implementation frameworks and theories include the use of the Organizational Readiness for Change instrument as a prognosticator for implementation success, as well as the Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, and Maintenance (RE-AIM) framework to assess the longitudinal implementation of a tele dermatology initiative for rural veterans. Development and implementation of novel technological innovations that introduce new tele dermatology workflows into mature tele dermatology environments were analyzed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conflicts of Interest: None declared.

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