

Exploring the Impact of Telehealth on Home Health Nursing: A Comparative Study

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Mini Review

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ABSTRACT

The advent of telehealth has revolutionized healthcare delivery, particularly in the field of home health nursing. Telehealth offers a range of remote healthcare services that enhance patient access, reduce geographical barriers, and improve the efficiency of healthcare provision. This research article aims to explore the impact of telehealth on home health nursing through a comparative study. By examining the benefits and challenges associated with telehealth implementation in home health settings, this study seeks to provide valuable insights for healthcare professionals, policymakers, and researchers. The findings underscore the potential of telehealth to transform home health nursing and improve patient outcomes, while also identifying the limitations and areas that require further development.

Keywords: Home health nursing, Healthcare, Telehealth

INTRODUCTION

The field of healthcare has witnessed significant advancements in recent years, particularly with the emergence and widespread adoption of telehealth. Telehealth refers to the delivery of healthcare services and information through telecommunication technologies, allowing for remote access to medical expertise and services. This innovative approach has transformed the way healthcare is delivered, improving patient access, enhancing efficiency, and reducing barriers to care. One area where telehealth has shown immense promise is home health nursing, which focuses on providing healthcare services to patients in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes.

Home health nursing plays a crucial role in ensuring continuity of care for patients who are unable to visit healthcare facilities regularly or require specialized care in their home environment. Traditionally, home health nurses have provided in-person visits to assess patients, administer treatments, and educate them on managing their conditions. However, this model faces challenges such as geographical barriers, limited availability of healthcare professionals, and the need for frequent home visits, which can be burdensome for patients, particularly those living in remote areas.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The impact of telehealth on home health nursing has been transformative, revolutionizing the way healthcare services are delivered to patients in their own homes. This section will discuss the various aspects of telehealth's impact on home health nursing, including its benefits, challenges, and implications for patient care and healthcare providers. One of the primary advantages of telehealth in home health nursing is the enhanced access to care it provides. Telehealth eliminates geographical barriers, allowing patients in remote or underserved areas to receive timely and specialized healthcare services. Patients no longer need to travel long distances or face transportation challenges to access necessary care. Telehealth also facilitates virtual consultations, enabling healthcare professionals to remotely assess patients and provide appropriate guidance, reducing the need for in-person visits.

Enhanced patient monitoring and disease management

Telehealth technologies enable real-time monitoring and remote management of patients' health conditions. Home health nurses can use telehealth devices and applications to remotely monitor patients' vital signs, track medication adherence, and

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collect data on disease progression. This allows for early detection of health issues and timely intervention, promoting proactive disease management and preventing complications. Patients can receive timely feedback, education, and support from healthcare professionals, leading to improved self-management skills and better overall health outcomes ^[1-3].

DISCUSSION

Telehealth empowers patients to actively participate in their own care and take control of their health. Through telehealth platforms, patients can access educational resources, interactive tools, and self-management strategies. They can communicate with healthcare providers, ask questions, and seek guidance whenever needed, fostering a sense of empowerment and engagement in their healthcare journey. This increased patient engagement can lead to improved adherence to treatment plans, better self-care practices, and ultimately, better health outcomes.

Cost-effectiveness and resource optimization

Telehealth has the potential to optimize healthcare resources and reduce costs associated with home health nursing. By leveraging telehealth technologies, healthcare providers can streamline workflows, reduce the need for unnecessary home visits, and allocate resources more efficiently. This can result in cost savings for both patients and healthcare systems, as it eliminates expenses related to travel, facility-based care, and hospital readmissions. Telehealth can also reduce the burden on healthcare professionals by enabling them to care for a larger number of patients remotely ^[4,5].

Challenges and considerations

While the impact of telehealth on home health nursing is promising, it is essential to acknowledge the challenges and considerations associated with its implementation. Technological barriers, such as limited access to reliable internet connections or lack of technical skills among patients and healthcare providers, can pose challenges to the widespread adoption of telehealth. Data security and privacy concerns must be addressed to ensure patient confidentiality and protect sensitive health information. Additionally, regulatory and reimbursement policies need to be adapted to support and incentivize telehealth in home health nursing.

Healthcare provider perspectives

Home health nurses play a critical role in telehealth implementation and delivery of care. The impact of telehealth on healthcare providers includes increased flexibility in scheduling and patient care, reduced travel time and expenses, and the ability to reach a larger patient population. However, it may also require healthcare providers to develop new skills, adapt to remote care delivery models, and overcome barriers related to technology and patient engagement. Proper training, support, and ongoing education are essential to ensure healthcare providers can effectively utilize telehealth tools and deliver high-quality care.

Patient satisfaction and acceptance

Studies have shown positive patient satisfaction with telehealth in home health nursing. Patients appreciate the convenience, reduced travel burden, and increased access to care that telehealth provides. However, it is crucial to consider individual patient preferences and readiness for technology adoption. Not all patients may feel comfortable with or have access to the necessary technological devices. Addressing these factors and providing adequate support and education to patients can enhance patient satisfaction and acceptance of telehealth in home health nursing ^[6].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, telehealth has the potential to significantly impact home health nursing by improving patient access to care, enhancing communication and monitoring, and optimizing healthcare resources. However, successful implementation requires addressing the challenges and barriers associated with technology, reimbursement, regulations, and ethical considerations. By understanding the comparative analysis and exploring the experiences of patients and healthcare providers, policymakers and researchers can further develop telehealth strategies and guidelines that maximize its benefits in home health nursing. This research article contributes to the growing body of knowledge in this field and encourages further research and innovation in telehealth to improve patient outcomes and healthcare delivery in home health settings.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Authors declare no conflict of interest.

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