

TELEMEDICINE



HEALTH ETHICS SEMINAR

JOHN DOSSETOR HEALTH ETHICS CENTRE

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12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

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Telemedicine

Definition:

Basically any communication that is not face to face.



Informed Consent

Consideration of the following:

- Has patient checked website for info?
- Location
- 'visit' may not be suitable for telemedicine



Informed Consent - cont.

- Privacy
- No cost unless not a publicly funded service
- May have to refer
- Test results



Number of Interactions with Patients

- No AB practice permit 5x1r
- Emergency
- Scope of practice
- Referral of patient



Alberta physician practicing outside Alberta

- Where licensed
- Record keeping
- Records
- Cost
- Referral-location of consultant



Standards of Practice

- Code of Ethics
- Alberta and other Provinces, allowing telemedicine, have Standards of Practice and/or guidelines



Prescriptions

Limitations - must not issue unless:

- Hx obtained

Concern:

- reliability
- sources



Prescriptions – cont.

Limitations - must not issue unless (cont.):

- Appropriate exam performed

Concern:

- training – “laying on of hands”
- who performs
- reliability of findings



Prescriptions – cont.

Limitations - must not issue unless (cont.):

- Has Dx

Concern:

- differential Dx?
- follow-up



Prescriptions – cont.

Limitations - must not issue unless (cont.):

- Ensures no contradictions

Concern:

- depends on Hx and sources



Prescriptions – cont.

Limitations - must not issue unless (cont.):

- Risks/benefits explained

Concern:

- what if risk materializes?



Prescriptions – cont.

Can issue:

- In consult with another health prof.
- Has access to medical records
- Opioids?
- An emergency?



Record Keeping

- Patient should read and understand privacy issues
 - how is data protected?
- Will info be shared with others? Who?
- How can patient access records?



Devices

- Physician uses 3rd party provider
- Is provider approved?
- Is provider insured?
- Cost to transfer information?



Privacy

- Breach?
- Privacy commissioner
- Reputation
- 3rd party lawsuits



QUESTIONS?



Thank you

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