

Home Telehealth: Navigating the Arduous Journey towards Future Shores

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Abstract: Advances in information and communication technology has laid the groundwork for the use of telehealth technology in healthcare; though it seems to be a logical match, over time, it has proven not to be such an obvious fit. Despite the long-standing evidence supporting the benefits of home telehealth for patients and providers, still today, within the Quebec context, it is not commonly integrated into routine services mainly due to political, financial and structural barriers. With the ubiquitous presence of technology in our daily lives, patients are turning to digital tools to manage their health and well-being and are driving the demand for the application of technology to healthcare services for a variety of reasons such as convenience, increasing sense of autonomy over their care, enhanced communication and access to healthcare providers, etc. If past experiences hold true, it is expected that technology will get increasingly simple to use; however, this does not necessarily translate to more home telehealth services unless underlying barriers are addressed. This presentation will summarize our own experiences with various home telehealth initiatives, will present the challenges and successes in implementing home telehealth, and will offer a framework (B.E.L.T.) that can guide the integration of sustainable services.

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