



Hello Northwest Regional, Northwest Region:



Office of Rural Health

**Area Health
Education Center**

New Telehealth Training Courses!

The Montana State University (MSU), the Montana Office of Rural Health (MORH) and the Area Health Education Center (AHAC) partnered with the NRTRC to offer [telehealth training courses](#) specific to those providing telehealth services in the state of Montana.

Through this [course](#), MORH/AHEC aims to educate healthcare students and professionals on the foundations of telebehavioral health, specifically in Montana. Telebehavioral health is a useful and powerful tool that expands

access to quality care remotely.

The following training will guide you through understanding what telebehavioral health is, the benefits of incorporating it into your practice and how to use it within your scope of work. Additionally, the course will review general rules and regulations to properly provide telebehavioral health services in Montana.

News You Can Use



GAO Reviews Medicare's Telehealth Rules Under Emergency

The [U.S. Government Accountability Office](#) released a new [report](#) to Congress evaluating the expansion of Medicare telehealth usage under waivers issued by the Department of Health and Human Services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The GAO reviewed:

- The use of telehealth services.
- CMS efforts to identify and monitor risks posed by Medicare telehealth waivers.
- A change the Office for Civil Rights made to its enforcement of regulations governing patients' protected health information during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The GAO report also found that:

- 33 percent of beneficiaries using telehealth lived in rural areas; 39 percent of beneficiaries using telehealth lived in urban areas.
- Services delivered via telehealth increased under all provider types, although mental and behavioral health increased the most.
- About 80 percent of total services provided by telehealth were office visits and psychotherapy services.

The GAO report issued four recommendations:

- CMS should develop a billing modifier or clarify guidance about billing for audio-only visits.
- CMS should require site-of-service codes capturing services delivered to patients at home.
- CMS should study the quality of Medicare services delivered via telehealth, including audio-only services, during the public health emergency.
- The Office for Civil Rights should provide more resources to providers to help them educate patients on privacy issues when using telehealth platforms.

Study Shows Telehealth Scores Well in Quality Survey

A [study](#) published in [JAMA Network Open](#) found that patients who had telehealth visits during the pandemic scored their visits on par or better than in-person visits on 13 of 16 quality measures. Read the full article [here](#).

FQHCs and Telehealth: Proposed Guidance Addresses Health Center Delivery of Telehealth Services

Federally Qualifies Health Centers (FQHC) are invited to provide comments on [proposed guidance](#) for FQHCs that provide services via telehealth. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Health Resource and Services Administration issued the proposed guidance for comment last month. The guidance applies to FQHCs that receive federal grants under the Public Health Service Act, as well as FQHC look-alikes that meet HRSA requirements but do not receive federal grants.

Comments are due on or before Nov. 14.



Upcoming Events & Webinars

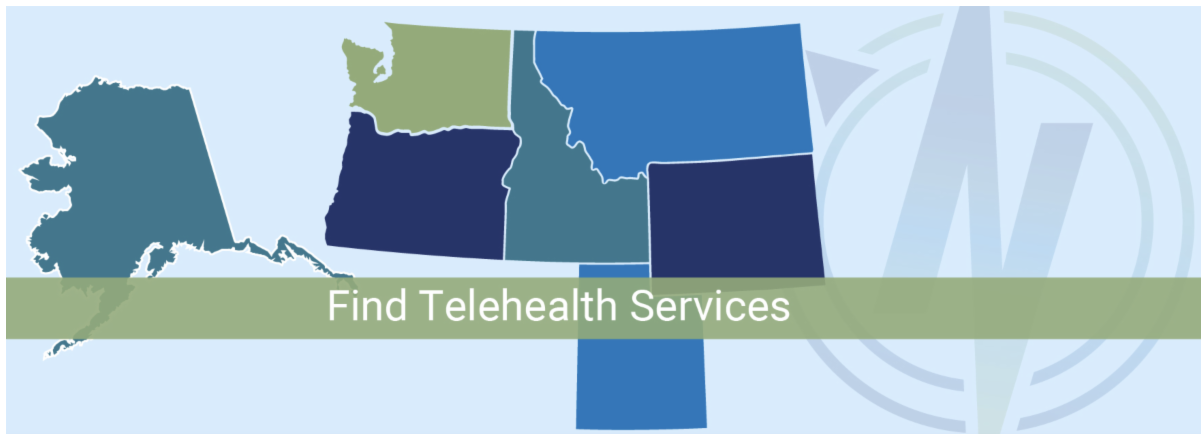
[2022 CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference](#): This multi-track conference will offer a variety of keynote plenaries, networking opportunities, educational sessions, and exhibits by industry experts intended to meet the needs of Region 18 (Regions VIII and X) community health center staff members. This year's theme, The Power of Together, celebrates the 25th anniversary of the CHAMPS and NWRPCA Fall Conference partnership. Oct. 15-18

[NCTRC Webinar](#): Lifeline Pediatric Teledental Program for Nicklaus Children's Health System. The program will evaluate the effectiveness of telehealth in providing services to pediatric Medicaid patients and outcomes among intervention and control groups. The study behind this program provided Lifeline phones preloaded with the Nicklaus Children's Health System teledental app and the Southeastern Telehealth Resource Center's Toddler Tracks program. Oct. 20, noon-1:00 p.m.

[American Public Health Association Conference 2022](#): Join us in Boston, Nov. 6-9 for APHA's 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo and 150th anniversary celebration. The meeting blends the legacy of APHA with innovative and exciting opportunities to help you reach your goals. Engage with public health experts, collaborate with other advocates and grow professionally. Nov. 6-9 .

[NCTRC Webinar](#): Telehealth Development and Expansion at Specialty Pediatric Health System. This webinar will review the role of Shriners Children's care delivery models, and the responses implemented for addressing care across North America and internationally. The presenters will discuss sustainability measures and growth strategies for the future. Nov. 10, noon-1:00 p.m.

[SEARCH 2022](#): The National Telehealth Research Symposium will showcase connected health efforts, strategies and partnerships, specifically those that focus on the research of telemedicine, telehealth, eHealth, mHealth, and other healthcare technologies. Nov. 16-18.



Do you provide health care or services via telehealth?

NRTRC's [telehealth services finder](#) is available to help patients and providers find in-person and telehealth care. Please review your clinic's information or complete the [2022 intake form](#) to ensure that information on your practice and your services is up to date. [Click here to update the information on your practice.](#)



Northwest Regional State Telehealth Website Links

- [Alaska Collaborative for Telehealth and Telemedicine](#)
- [Idaho Department of Health and Welfare](#)
- [Montana Telehealth Alliance](#)
- [Telehealth Alliance of Oregon](#)
- [Utah Telehealth Network](#)
- [Washington State Telehealth Collaborative](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Wyoming Telehealth Network](#)



Telehealth Resources

[Telehealth Tools and Resources](#): Find up-to-date telehealth tools & resources.

[Professional Development](#): Visit NRTRC's catalog of online telehealth training courses.

The Telehealth Resource Centers have gathered resources specific to [Federally Qualified Health Centers](#). Examples include a Critical Access Hospital Telehealth Guide and a webinar on Telehealth Essentials for FQHCs.

[Emergency Declarations](#): Utah and Washington are the only states in the Northwest Region still under emergency declarations because of the COVID pandemic.

[Updated legislation and regulations](#): Keep up with regulations and proposed legislation for the states of the Northwest Region.

[Research](#): current research opportunities, research articles and survey results.

Grant Funding Opportunities

Refer to the [funding page](#) on the NRTRC website for updated grant opportunities.



Thanks to All Those Who Made the 2022 NRTRC Conference a Success

Thank you to the speakers, sponsors, attendees, conference planners and volunteers for a successful 2022 NRTRC Innovation in Telehealth Conference!

For those who attended the event, the recordings of the sessions can be viewed in Whova. For those who did not attend and would like to view the sessions, watch for them to be available toward the end of the year.



Affordable Connectivity Program
*Helping Households Get
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Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center

"This publication was made possible by grant number U10TH42531-01 from the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth, Health Resources and Services Administration, DHHS"

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