



Greetings Northwest Region:



2024 Survey Results Are In!

The wait is over! The [2024 Northwest Regional Telehealth Survey results](#) have been compiled and are ready for you to take a deep dive into the data. We invite you to share your insights and ideas about these results by emailing us at info@nrtrc.org.

Historical data from our 2020-2023 survey results can be found [here](#).

Congress Moves to Extend Telehealth Flexibilities and Medicare Payment Boost

Lawmakers reached an agreement on December 14, 2024, to extend key healthcare programs, including expanded telehealth provisions. While the package awaits votes in the House and Senate this week, it includes significant wins for healthcare providers and patients.

Medicare physicians are set to receive a 2.5% payment increase for one year,

offsetting a 2.8% cut announced in November's fee schedule. Telehealth policies saw notable gains, with a two-year extension of Medicare telehealth flexibilities. These include expanded geographic and originating site options, as well as the ability for more provider types to bill for telehealth services.



Additionally, commercially insured patients will benefit from a two-year extension of pre-deductible telehealth coverage for high-deductible health plans tied to health savings accounts—a surprising expansion from the initially proposed one-year extension.

This proposed package marks a significant step in ensuring telehealth's continued role in healthcare delivery.

[Read more here.](#)

The Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP) and NCTRC will host a webinar on January 9 to discuss these changes. Attendance is free, but space is limited. For more information, see ***Events to Bookmark in 2025*** below.

Access additional information and sign up for the latest telehealth policy updates at <https://www.cchpca.org/>.

Help ViVE and NRTRC Shape the Future of Telehealth

The NRTRC is excited to partner with the Center for Virtual Care Value and Equity (ViVE) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on a groundbreaking initiative to enhance the equity and value of telehealth services.

ViVE, backed by a \$3.73 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is conducting a five-year study to gather insights from patients, providers, and policymakers/administrators. The goal is to understand experiences with virtual care and develop evidence-based recommendations for policy improvements, industry training, and practical online tools.

To achieve this, ViVE is seeking 60 participants to provide feedback through virtual interviews:

- 30 patients
- 15 healthcare providers
- 15 policymakers or administrators

NRTRC is reaching out to our community to support this initiative by promoting participation in these studies. Your voice—and the voices of those you connect with—can make a meaningful impact on the future of telehealth.

If you're interested in participating or helping to spread the word, please check out the flyers below for details (available in both English and Spanish).

- <https://nrtrc.org/downloads/ViVE-Patient-Flyer.png>
- <https://nrtrc.org/downloads/ViVE-Provider-Flyer.png>
- <https://nrtrc.org/downloads/ViVE-Patient-Flyer-Spanish.png>
- <https://nrtrc.org/downloads/ViVE-Provider-Flyer-Spanish.png>

Thank you for supporting efforts to advance equitable and valuable virtual care. Together, we can drive meaningful change!



Events to Bookmark in 2025

January

NCTRC Webinar—Federal Telehealth Policy in 2025

Jan 9, 2025 @ 12 p.m.–1 p.m.

Organizer: [National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers](#)

Come join the Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP) as we look at where federal telehealth policy stands in 2025. Co-hosted with the National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers (NCTRC), this webinar will examine recent actions Congress has (or has not) taken in regards the federal waivers on Medicare telehealth policies, what has changed, what is continuing and what is not. Registration is free but space is limited.

NCTRC Webinar—Breaking Down Barriers to Telehealth: How the Digital Health Readiness Screener Can Drive Equity and Access

Jan 16, 2025 @ 12 p.m.–1 p.m.

Organizer: [National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers](#)

Discover how the new Digital Health Readiness Screener from Thomas Jefferson University is making a difference in telehealth access by identifying key barriers faced by diverse patient populations. This webinar will explore how the screener assesses technical readiness and quality of care concerns, including digital literacy, privacy, and trust in telehealth. Join us to learn how this tool can support targeted interventions and help advance digital health equity across healthcare settings.

February

NRHA Rural Health Policy Institute

Feb 11–Feb 13

Washington, DC

Organizer: [National Rural Health Association](#)

Join NRHA and hundreds of rural health advocates from across the nation to bring our clout to the Capitol for NRHA's 36th Rural Health Policy Institute. This is our moment to guide the future of rural health policy and to advocate directly on the issues we care about. NRHA helps make your voice louder in Washington DC every day, but we need to bring our collective power to the Capitol in February.

Registration includes access to NRHA's Advocacy resources and a complementary one-year membership for first-time NRHA members.

ViVE 2025

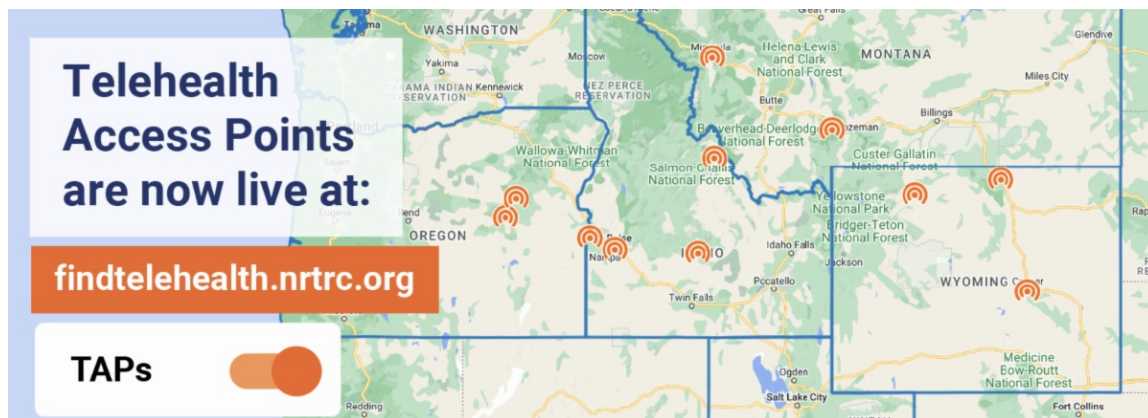
Feb 16–Feb 19

Nashville, TN

Organizer: [ViVE](#)

Join your industry colleagues at the only event where digital health execs go to do business. Leaders of the digital health tech world will convene in Nashville to attend ViVE, the go-to destination where digital healthcare execs get business done. ViVE focuses on effective networking, gaining market insights, and maximizing ROI for event participants.

Do You Provide Healthcare or Services via Telehealth?



NRTRC's [Find Telehealth](#) is available to help patients and providers find in-person and telehealth care along with locations to have telehealth visits. Turn on the map's TAPs button to view sites.

[Click Here to Update Information on Your Practice](#)

[Click Here to Add a TAP](#)



Northwest Regional State Telehealth Website Links

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



Telehealth Resources

- [Telehealth Tools and Resources](#): Find up-to-date telehealth tools and resources.
- [Professional Development](#): Visit NRTRC's catalog of online telehealth training courses.
- [Updated legislation and regulations](#): Keep up with regulations and proposed legislation for the states of the Northwest Region.
- [Research](#): Find current research opportunities, research articles, and survey results.

Grant Funding Opportunities

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



Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center

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