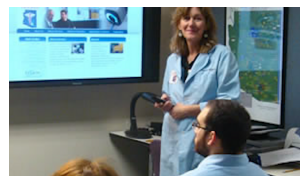
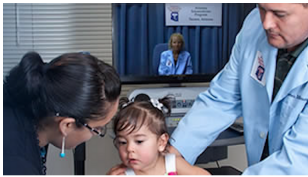


FAST FACTS



Telemedicine is the use of telecommunications technology to provide health care services to patients who cannot physically travel to see a physician or other health care providers.

OUR GOALS

- To enhance healthcare delivery to medically-underserved populations throughout the state using telemedicine technologies.
- To maintain a statewide Arizona Telemedicine Network to increase access to medical specialty services while decreasing healthcare costs.
- To use telemedicine outreach programs to encourage physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to establish and retain practices in underserved rural areas.
- To provide ongoing training for preceptors, medical students, and residents.
- To encourage students from rural communities into the healthcare professions and encourage their return to these communities upon completion of their educations.
- To improve public health in rural communities by providing current information and training.
- To have the Arizona Telemedicine Network serve as a test bed to evaluate the effectiveness of state-of-the-art telemedicine services.
- To increase and promote the use of telecommunications for distance learning in health care.
- To provide health care systems throughout the state with information, training, and expertise in the field of telemedicine.
- To evaluate telemedicine equipment and telecommunications options and participate in their development.

CONTINUED

Established: 1996

Partners, Groups and Affiliations:

Arizona Telemedicine Council

Arizona Center for Rural Health

Arizona Health Sciences Library

Arizona Poison & Drug Information Center

The Amazon Swim Project (2007)

The Balkans Project

Four Corners Telehealth Consortium

Mariposa Community Health Center

National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers

The National Panama Telehealth network

Northern Arizona Telehealth Alliance (NATA)

Southern Arizona Telehealth Alliance (SATA)

Southwest PET/CT Institute

Southwest Telehealth Resource Center

T-Health Institute

<https://telemedicine.arizona.edu>

HISTORY

In 1995, Arizona State Representative Robert “Bob” Burns worked with legislative staffer John Lee to develop the Arizona Telemedicine Program model (ATP). The University of Arizona College of Medicine was directed to establish a pilot telemedicine program with eight sites to serve the Arizona prison system and rural underserved communities. UArizona recruited Dr. Ronald S Weinstein, an international expert on telemedicine, to be director of the new Arizona state-wide program.

1986

Dr. Weinstein invented robotic telepathology for which he holds US Patents. His Telepathology Research Laboratory at Rush Medical College, in Chicago, carried out pioneering research on the diagnostic accuracy of telepathology, developed the first robotic telemedicine application, and designed the first commercial robotic telepathology system.

1992

The Arizona International Telemedicine Network is established, which provides telepathology consultations in Mexico and China.



1996

The Arizona State Legislature funds the Arizona Telemedicine Program and mandates it provide telemedicine services to a broad range of healthcare service users including geographically isolated communities, Indian tribes, and Department of Corrections rural prisons.

2000

Telemedicine training begins, offering two educational tracks. In 2006, these programs become officially accredited by the American Telemedicine Association. Starting in January 2020, program participants receive credits for CME, or '*Continuing Medical Education*' accredited through the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, by the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson. Thousands of healthcare professionals have taken these trainings.

2003

The T-Health Institute opens in 2003 on the University of Arizona's Biomedical Campus in downtown Phoenix, offering training, and to serve as a prototype e-classroom of the future.

2009

The Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (SWTRC) is created through a federal grant, to advance the effective use of telemedicine services throughout the Southwest. It is one of thirteen Telehealth Resource Centers in the U.S. each serving a distinct geographic region. The SWTRC serves hospitals, clinics, public health offices, and private-practice healthcare providers.

2013

Governor Jan Brewer signs into law Senate Bill 1353, also known as the Telemedicine Reimbursement Parity Act, requiring telemedicine services be covered by health insurance in rural areas of Arizona. The bill was unanimously approved by both the House and Senate.

2021

Governor Doug Ducey signs Bill 2454, affecting telemedicine use and access to medical services. The law has gained national attention, regarded as one of the most comprehensive telehealth laws in any state to date.



ARIZONA TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM

