

Representatives: thank you for your time and the ability to address the committee. the following are the concerns of the VANP in regards to telemed (video/audio)

1. audio only visits have been very helpful for patients without access to in person or video visits, and the ability to treat diseases or offer chronic care vs nothing has been extremely helpful and decreased ED and urgent care visits tremendously, as evident in the latest stats from the government. also, our pts with severe or moderate anxiety have seen drastically positive improvements in their care with audio and/or video visits as they didn't have to travel to the visit or navigate being around other people that increases their anxiety. also concern with telemed from non-local providers that will not know the patients as well as well and thus likely treat similar to the level of urgent care, which while helpful is not as helpful as their local health practitioner. so some kind of limitation on non-local providers would be helpful to ensure that local providers do not get pushed out of visits and thus start to hurt financially from a drop in visits, and thus we'll potentially lose more good local practitioners.

A. to comment on Dr Hunt's talk, can't agree more, and the amount of free care we give bc patients can't afford a visit due to their high deductible plans is not financially feasible, but we do it because we care, and take an oath as practitioners.

B. audio only is what we do as a default, not the preferred for most patients, but is extremely helpful, as we can't do vitals or a physical exam.

c. fixed costs are about the same or more as we can't decrease our office rent any time soon (we have a 10 yr lease) bc we are often in the office doing the telemed, and we need to pay more for better wifi, and now have to have better wifi and an office at home as well for the days we are not in the office. audio only and telemed is absolutely extremely value based and worth the cost. we only see pts via tele (audio or video) that are appropriate, thus we try to have visits for ear infx, potential pneumonia, GERD, etc in person but sometime we have to have that visit via tele bc they can't make it in person for various reasons. so in short access is vastly improved and we have seen a 75% drop in missed appointments since telemed has become available and adopted widespread.

Joshua Green

--

In Health and Happiness,

Dr. Joshua Green

Pronouns: He/Him/His

President, Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians

Member, Clinical Utilization Review Board, Vermont Department of Health Access

President & Medical Director, Vermont Natural Family Medicine PLC

Naturopathic Physician, Primary Care Physician, Classical Homeopath

Past House of Delegates Representative, American Association of Naturopathic Physicians