

Telemedicine:

A Vital Weapon in the Fight Against COVID-19

With the COVID-19 epidemic, telemedicine has become an important tool in helping address the needs of patients—and healthcare providers.

Telemedicine can be used to funnel possible coronavirus cases to the most appropriate resources, and it can also be used to address other health issues. Both of these advantages are important in our current situation.



Here's why telemedicine matters.



It protects patients.

- A. People avoid healthcare facilities where they might get infected or infect others.
- B. The most at-risk people can get care from home.
- C. Those who need in-person care can get it faster when others are being treated virtually.



It safeguards healthcare staff.

- A. Most COVID-19 cases are mild and don't need hospitalization. Enabling doctors to triage, evaluate and advise these patients online minimizes their own exposure to the virus.
- B. Personal protective equipment is scarce and limiting the volume of in-person care can help stretch supplies.
- C. It shifts low-complexity and recurring issues away from overburdened healthcare professionals dealing either with coronavirus or more complex medical needs.



It can help keep healthcare professionals in the game.

- A. Doctors and nurses are not immune, and some will inevitably become infected. If their symptoms are mild, they can continue to evaluate and support patients virtually, easing the burden on others.

Telemedicine can't address all healthcare issues and it can only replace a small portion of the in-person support many patients require, but it is rapidly becoming an integral part of our broader healthcare strategy in the face of COVID-19. It's more important than ever that people with routine medical needs stay out of urgent cares, hospitals and doctor's offices.



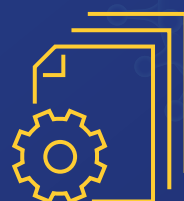
If you offer a telemedicine option to your employees, make sure to remind them of its availability.



If employees are working from home, consider sending out an email just about telemedicine.



Give details and examples of how to use it and reinforce its cost-effectiveness so people are empowered to seek care in the most appropriate setting.



Add resources and information to your intranet or benefits administration platform so employees know where to look for guidance.



Want more advice about managing in the age of COVID-19? We're all in this together. Visit our growing resource center at Businessolver.com/NewNormal for more information you can use.