

Telehealth is “the use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration.”¹ Often, telehealth is used interchangeably with the terms telemedicine² or eHealth. Telehealth, however, is broader than these other terms; telemedicine and eHealth are distinct areas within telehealth.³ *Telemedicine* is defined by the Federation of State Medical Boards as “the practice of medicine using electronic communication, information technology, or other means between a physician in one location, and a patient in another location, with or without an intervening health care provider.”⁴ The World Health Organization defines *eHealth* as “the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for health.”⁵

Telehealth is a promising public health tool because of its potential to significantly increase access to health care for medically underserved populations, as well as the widespread belief that it can reduce healthcare costs and improve health outcomes overall. In rural areas, with federal legislation increasing demand for medical services already in short supply, telehealth is often seen as a more efficient way for people to receive care.

Despite its growth in popularity in recent years, telehealth faces a number of barriers hindering more widespread adoption. Information security, patient privacy, licensing, insurance reimbursement, and liability concerns are all areas where gaps exist in state statutes and regulations. The following resources describe policy and legal considerations for implementing and governing telehealth.⁶

<https://www.cdc.gov/php/publications/topic/anthologies/anthologies-telehealth.html>