

5G and Telehealth: Significant Benefits for Providers, Patients & Payers

Why Telehealth is Growing

Telehealth connects clinicians and patients to provide care such as consultations, diagnoses, treatment, education, care management, and support for patient self-management.

Source: [American Medical Association](#)

\$100,000,000,000

The virtual health market in the U.S. is projected to grow more than 23% annually, reaching close to \$100B by 2025.

Source: [Deloitte](#)

01 Telehealth provides better healthcare access to rural areas.

80%

The federal government has identified about 80% of rural America as medically underserved.

Source: [CMHC](#)

20%

10%

These rural counties are home to 20% of the U.S. population, but only 10% of the country's doctors. In these "medical deserts," next-generation networks paired with powerful, patient-centric devices and applications are critical.

Source: [CMHC](#)

10 YEARS

Rural populations have a higher prevalence of chronic disease and related mortality, yet access to care is threatened by the closure of more than 100 rural hospitals over the last ten years.

Source: [McKinsey](#)

+18M

According to the FCC, more than 18 million Americans lack access to high-speed broadband networks.

5G will provide more reliable connections for telehealth-related data transfers and video consultations.

Source: [Brookings](#)

02 Telehealth helps physicians better support underserved communities and reduce the digital divide.



The trend of hospital closures in inner-city neighborhoods has affected thousands of Americans, especially communities of color and people without health insurance. Telemedicine helps break this cycle by providing a way for people to see a doctor before they get extremely sick.

Source: [Healthline](#)

100%

In a 10-state study of primary care practices, urban Medicaid patients were offered an appointment only 60 percent of the time.

Source: [Wiley](#)



Medical deserts are usually found in black and minority neighborhoods in urban areas. African American neighborhoods are reported to be more likely located in trauma deserts than white neighborhoods in urban areas.

Source: [NCBI](#)

03 Telehealth delivers significant cost savings.

\$126

Savings for patients

Virtual visits could save patients an average of \$126 per visit. A typical telehealth visit costs \$40–\$50, whereas a typical in-office visit costs \$136–\$176.

Source: [Deloitte](#)

\$62K

Increased income for providers

Under telemedicine, a physician can see an additional four patients a day with video visits, charging \$60 for the average visit. Over a year, this process would net the physician an additional \$62,000 in practice revenue.

Source: [Miamtel](#)

\$3M

Savings for payers

Diabetes-focused Livongo Health solidified significant partnerships with the state of Connecticut and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. Connecticut's state health plan expects Livongo's Diabetes Management Program to deliver approximately \$3 million in cost savings per year by providing patients with comprehensive, 24/7, live health coaching.

Source: [CJ Linights](#)

04 Telehealth improves patient experiences and outcomes.

Patients in the ICU who received care from a telehealth visit were less likely to die and more likely to be discharged sooner than those who received traditional ICU care, data shows.

Source: [Healix](#)

2 hrs

Patients save about two hours, on average, per virtual visit compared to a physical visit.

Source: [Deloitte](#)

1 IN 2

About one in two physicians see improved care coordination and quality of care through virtual care.

Source: [Deloitte](#)

2 IN 3

Two in three health plans think virtual health has improved overall member satisfaction.

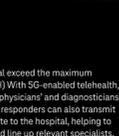
Source: [Deloitte](#)

41%

According to a report from the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society in Chicago, forty-one percent of U.S. patients indicated they would continue to use telemedicine to meet with their providers after the pandemic.

Source: [Crain's](#)

05 5G empowers telehealth almost everywhere.



First Responders

One-third of all ambulance trips to the hospital exceed the maximum recommended 15-minute transport time. (NIH) With 5G-enabled telehealth, first responders can attend to patients under physicians' and diagnosticians' guidance before they reach the hospital. First responders can also transmit medical information such as vital signs en route to the hospital, helping to prepare ER personnel for proper treatment and line up relevant specialists.

Source: [NIH](#)



Emergency Rooms

An NIH study found that emergency departments could screen as many patients via telehealth as they could in-person, helping to reduce the number of people waiting in emergency rooms and the number of patients who left the ER without being seen.

Source: [NIH](#)



Surgery

Many healthcare systems are using artificial intelligence (AI) to help predict which patients are most likely to have postoperative complications and intervene before complications occur. These systems are data-intensive and require the higher network capacity of 5G to transmit quickly and efficiently among hospitals and healthcare systems.



Specialists

5G-enabled telehealth helps healthcare systems transmit large files, such as MRIs and other imaging files quickly, reducing patient wait times for diagnoses and treatment. Specialists can collaborate across geographies to identify the best course of treatment based on real-time data.



Behavioral Health

5G connectivity is helping to address shortages in local or on-site mental health services. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reports that nearly 80 million Americans live in a mental health professional shortage area.



General Practitioners

5G-enabled connectivity helps doctors and patients better manage chronic conditions, from video follow-up visits to wearable data. A report from Accenture reveals that 65% of consumers and 80% of doctors agree that wearables increase patients' engagement with their health. This engagement is expected to decrease hospital costs by 16% over the next five years.

Source: [Accenture / Forbes](#)



Clinical Trials

Clinical trial leaders find it more effective and efficient to place IoT-connected monitoring devices in participants' homes versus asking participants to self-report. The shift, enabled by 5G's ability to transmit high volumes of IoT data quickly, reduced administrative overhead and processing costs and delivered more accurate and consistent data.



Operations Management

5G-enabled trackers can help hospital operations and administrators inventory and track critical equipment, such as ventilators, as well as bed occupancy levels and even movement of people such as physicians, nurses, and patients. The data can automatically update EMR systems to help healthcare systems optimize operations.

Next steps

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Capable device required; coverage not available in some areas. While 5G access won't require a certain plan or feature, some uses/services might. See Coverage details, Terms and Conditions, and Open Internet information for network management details (like video optimization) at [T-Mobile.com](#).