

## DRAFT: Telehealth Policy

### 1 Definitions:

- 2       ▪ **Telehealth** is defined by the Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP) as: *a collection of means*  
3       *or methods for enhancing health care, public health, and health education delivery and support*  
4       *using telecommunications technologies.*
- 5       ▪ Telehealth is used as a universal term for the various virtual care service applications such as:
  - 6           ○ **Live videoconferencing** (synchronous): live, two-way interaction between a person and  
7           a provider using audiovisual telecommunications technology.
  - 8           ○ **Store-and-Forward** (asynchronous): transmission of recorded health history through an  
9           electronic communications system to a practitioner, usually a specialist, who uses the  
10          information to evaluate the case of render a service outside of a real-time or live  
11          interaction.
  - 12          ○ **Remote Patient Monitoring** (RPM): personal health and medical data collection from an  
13          individual in one location via electronic communication technologies, which is  
14          transmitted to a provider in a different location for use in care and related support.
  - 15          ○ **Mobile Health** (mHealth): health care and public health practice and education  
16          supported by mobile communication devices such as cell phones, tablet computers, and  
17          PDAs. Applications can range from targeted text messages that promote healthy  
18          behavior to wide-scale alerts about disease outbreaks, to name a few examples.

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- 20       ➤ The North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) supports access to comprehensive, quality care and  
21       social supports as necessary to promote health, prevent and manage disease, reduce premature  
22       death and preventable morbidity, and achieve health equity for everyone in North Carolina, as  
23       written in the NCMS' [Access to Care and Social Supports for all Populations](#) policy.
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- 25       ➤ The NCMS supports and encourages efforts and funding for programs and innovations that resolve  
26       existing barriers to telehealth access for health care providers and persons of North Carolina.
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- 28       ➤ The North Carolina Medical Society promotes telehealth coverage for all appropriate medical  
29       services, patient types, provider types, locations, secure devices and modalities, by all government  
30       and commercial payers.
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- 32       ➤ The North Carolina Medical Society advocates for parity in payment for telehealth services provided  
33       and accurately documented by any qualified health care provider when medically appropriate.
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- 35       ➤ The NCMS advocates for the continuing efforts to safeguard patient privacy and program integrity  
36       through effective and considerate regulations and requirements that allow for the support and  
37       innovation of technology-based care.

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