



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR  
**HEALTHCARE AT HOME™**

TESTIMONY

Delivered by Deborah R. Hoyt, President and CEO  
The Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home

Before the Human Services Committee

March 11, 2014

Raised Bill HB 5445

IN SUPPORT:

**AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF TELEMONITORING SERVICES**

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Deborah Hoyt, President and CEO of the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home.

The Association represents 60 Connecticut DPH licensed/Medicare certified home health and hospice agencies that foster cost-effective, person-centered healthcare in the setting people prefer most – their own home. Collectively, our agency providers deliver care to more CT residents each day than those housed in CT hospitals and nursing homes combined.

We are Connecticut's community-based safety net, ensuring that the chronic conditions of the frail elderly, disabled, and homebound are managed and coordinated across the healthcare continuum, and understand the value that technology and interactive data communication brings to person-centered care.

**We SUPPORT Medicaid reimbursement for Telemonitoring services in the home.** Home health providers have embraced the use of this technology, despite a lack of reimbursement, simply because it works - and it's the right thing to do for the individual.

- **13 other states have already passed reimbursement for Telemonitoring their Medicaid populations in the home.**
- **The U.S. Congress and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is seeking to move the country in this direction through the federal "Fostering Independence Through Technology" (FITT) Act to develop evidence-based guidelines to improve quality of healthcare through the increased use of technology.**



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- **As our nation's population ages and the need for care for the chronically ill, frail, disabled and elderly population grow, we can only achieve efficiency and connectivity to these individuals through innovative use of Telemonitoring in the home.**
- **Home Telemonitoring supports Connecticut's long term care goals including Aging in Place and Money Follows the Person (MFP). It also improves patient self-management skills and increases an individual's understanding and responsibility for his/her own health.**
- **Our current model of home care delivery consisting of nurses, home care aides, therapists and other workers who get into their cars and drive a significant number of miles each day to care for individuals, especially those in rural areas. This model of care delivery is labor intensive and costly. We can improve quality and achieve efficient by embracing technology and engaging the patient in their care through home visits combined with regular Telemonitoring.**
- **Telemonitoring is not intended to replace human interaction and regular home care visits. It compliments, enhances and supports the visit providing an additional safety net between visits. Patients and their families report that a telemonitor in the home adds a level of security and peace of mind.**

Local and national studies have found that telemedicine:

- Reduces costly hospitalizations
- Improves the quality of life for individuals receiving care at home
- Enables self-care education and intervention
- Improves depression symptoms
- Is cost-effective and saves millions of dollars across the health continuum
- Produces positive outcomes for patients

Partners HealthCare in Boston, MA – recently reported on its use of telehealth to aid cardiac patients. Partners stated there has been a 51% reduction in heart failure hospital readmissions, an improved patient understanding of their condition, and more than \$8,000 in savings for participating patients. The total savings from 1,265 patients enrolled in the program totaled more than \$10.3 million.

Expanding the use of technology in Connecticut and the benefit of overall healthcare savings can only come about if the providers who install, monitor, and train the patient to use the equipment is reimbursed.



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As the state of Connecticut increases the number of residents receiving health care at home, the cost-benefit of this shift will only be achieved through the increased use of telemedicine. Providers need the incentive of being reimbursed for acquiring, installing and training on the use of this equipment immediately.

Home health care and telemedicine are proven to be the cost effective solution to the state's healthcare and fiscal crises.

Please reach out to us as a resource for additional information at any time.

Thank you.