

Support House Bill 342 (Blanksma) to expand Telehealth in Idaho



Idaho is behind the national trend

Idaho is one of only four states in the nation that require an audio-visual connection for an initial telehealth visit. Most states allow for patient choice of technology and physician discretion over whether that technology can be used to meet the standard of care. Telehealth rules in Idaho should maximize access to quality care and choice while protecting patient safety, not arbitrarily restrict it. This audio-visual only requirement is an unnecessary and clinically unsubstantiated barrier to technologies in healthcare that could provide high-quality, affordable care to every corner of the state. Innovation and technology allow for access to quality healthcare using video, interactive audio, high definition photos for dermatology, remote patient monitoring and the use of text and SMS communications for behavioral health interactions. The critical point to ensuring patient safety is to require that the physician have access to and review the patient's medical record before the virtual visit begins; this removes the fear of pill mills and internet prescribing.

Idaho was once a leader in implementing telehealth but has not kept up with innovation and policies that encourage the use of technology. By having this restrictive requirement, Idaho has been left behind.

Federation of State Medical Boards' Model Policy

If Idahoans are to derive the benefits of telehealth, the state should adopt legislation and regulations consistent with model policy developed by the Federation of State Medical Boards, which endorses and encourages telehealth.

"Telemedicine" means the practice of medicine using electronic communications, information technology or other means between a licensee in one location, and a patient in another location with or without an intervening healthcare provider."

- Model Policy for the Appropriate Use of Technologies in the Practice of Medicine, April 2014

Idaho's neighbors are technology neutral on Telehealth

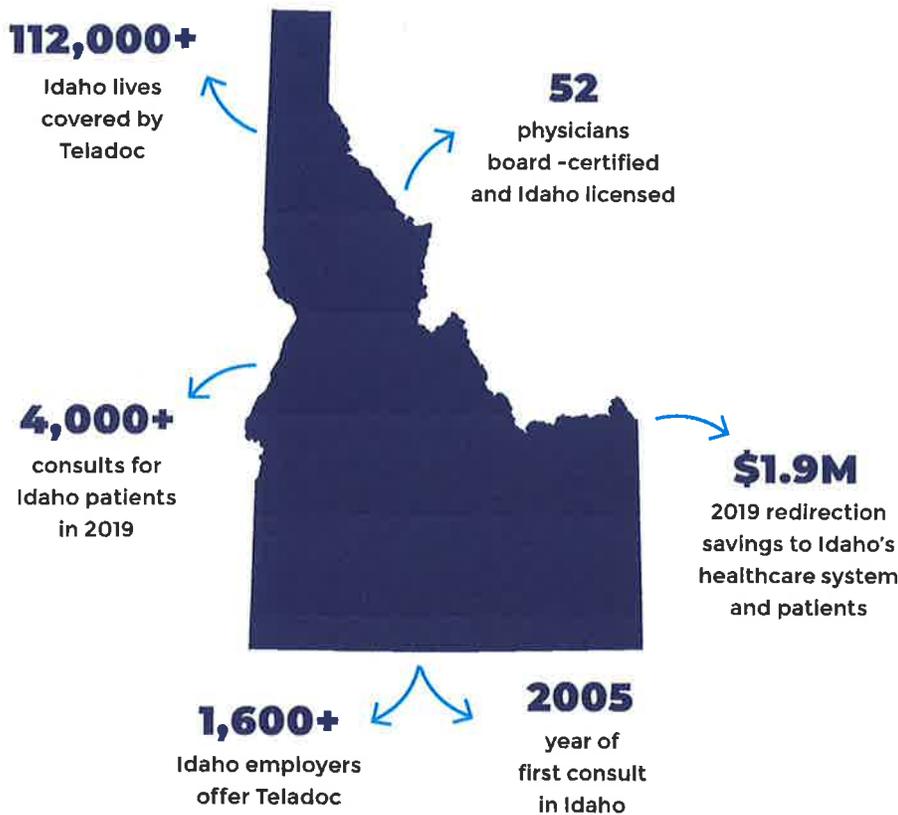


Washington	Interactive audio and video technology / "enabling" technology / asynchronous store and forward
Oregon	Electronic communications
Nevada	Information and audiovisual technology / examined electronically, telephonically or by fiber optics
Utah	Electronic communication or information technology
Wyoming	Interactive electronic communication, information technology, or other means
Montana	Electronic communication or other means

Telehealth's Idaho Footprint



Telemedicine technologies enable secure electronic communication and exchange of information between a board-certified, state-licensed physician in one location and a patient in another. Telemedicine is a valuable tool to practice medicine, expand access to healthcare, and offer an alternative to visiting a doctor's office, urgent care center or emergency room.



Where Idaho stands

Idaho has the nation's lowest physician supply ratio in national rankings by the United Health Foundation.

<https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/PCP/state/ID>

42 of 44 Idaho counties face primary care health provider shortages. Health Resources and Services Administration data shows.

<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find>

Idaho has only 194 physicians per 100,000 population, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

<https://www.aamc.org/download/484534/data/idahoprofile.pdf>

Sampling of Idaho Employers Offering Teladoc Health

Mission Aviation Fellowship
Tertelling
University of Idaho
Treasure Valley Coffee
National Rural Electric Coop Assn
American Medical Plan
Albertsons Companies
Norco, Inc.
US Dairy Systems
Arlo G Lott Trucking, Inc.
Cradlepoint, Inc.
Bayer Corporation

Altius Federal Plans
City of Pocatello
City of Rexburg
City of Hendersen-Standard
Jefferson County
Jefferson County School District
Idaho Falls School District
City of Idaho Falls
Cache County School District
Rolling Hills Charter School
Lillian Vallely School
Chugach School District

Teach for America
Costco
The Home Depot
T-Mobile
NTCA-The Rural Broadband
State Farm
UPS
KTVB-TV, TEGNA Inc.
Lowe's
Starbucks
Farmers Insurance