

Telehealth 2.0 – New Research Project Kicks Off!

TATRC's Mobile Health Innovation Center (mHIC) has formally launched a new research project entitled "Telehealth 2.0 Providing Continuity of Behavioral Health Clinical Care to Patients Using Mobile Devices" in partnership with the Defense Health Agency (DHA), Psychological Health Center of Excellence and Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center at Fort Hood. Additionally, the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio is providing research support services to assist in this effort. This new research study will explore options to connect Behavioral Health providers at Fort Hood with a means to connect from their desktop computer to their existing patients through the patient's personal mobile device. The intent of this demonstration project is to examine and address the security and privacy concerns of session initiation protocol (SIP)-based teleconferencing, from the providers' desktop to the patient, regardless of location. Fort Hood is a location where numerous troops are often on temporary TDY assignments to other CONUS and OCONUS locations, and in the instance of a 3-month temporary assignment, it would be ideal to allow the established provider / patient relationship to be maintained over a long distance.

mHIC Deputy Lab Manager, Mr. Ron Yeaw, sees this as an important step forward for the use of mobility in military

medicine. "As Telehealth capabilities move beyond secure messaging and provider consults, mobile technology must mature with it. TATRC's Mobile Health Care Environment framework was designed from its inception to do just that... support these advanced capabilities, and we are now finally getting a chance to flex some of that infrastructure in support of secure video teleconferencing."

Currently, the project has already received first level Institutional Review Board approval for the protocol and is undergoing the Human Research Protection Office review. The mobile device interface design has been completed, and the TATRC team is working closely with the DHA Video Network Center to ensure interoperability with their next generation, SIP based communication platform. Patient engagement is expected to begin in June 2018!

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