Telehealth In The Rural Community: Beam Me Up Scotty!

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Platte Valley Medical Clinic
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- Three providers servicing the communities of Riverside, Encampment, Saratoga...and we have patients traveling from Hanna and Rawlins.
- Nearest Hospital / ER is 40 miles away in Rawlins.
- Nearest “referral centers” are Casper and Cheyenne...both 150 miles away (we do have some specialty service 100 miles away here in Laramie).

Our Telehealth Services

- Currently we provide access to:
  - Cardiologist (electronic stethoscopes)
  - Rheumatologist
  - Neurologist
  - Psychiatrist: adult and pediatrics
  - Wound care
- Average 5-10 visits per month

Telehealth Benefits

- For the patients:
  - Less travel!!!
  - Wider array of access
  - Collaboration with the specialist at the time of visit if needed
- Education:
  - Grand rounds at educational institutions
  - Live seminars, although anymore these can be watched on any computer with webex programs

Stumbling Blocks

- Scheduling...now takes getting two doctors offices scheduled!
- Physicians
  - Change...and physicians are currently overwhelmed with change
  - Logistics...and pray there is not a software/internet failure!

Future Endeavors

- Home visits for chronic care management and patients that have to travel even for primary care visits
  - Not supported by Fee-For-Service...but maybe hope with PCMH payment models.
Sometimes You Just Need Help!

"What a minute here, Mr. Custer... Maybe it's not his headache after all!"