

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA


Telemedicine Development
in South Carolina

Stanley Fowler, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Clinical Research
and Special Projects

Telemedicine Introduced to SC

Early Telemedicine Projects

- Winnsboro Telemedicine Demonstration Project --January 1994
- Hughes Electronics Telecommunication Demonstration to Congress --Washington, 1995



The State
Editorial on Telemedicine January 8, 1994
'Absolutely exhilarating'

A PERENNIAL, but often elusive challenge for health-care professionals is the delivery of medical expertise to rural America.

Increasingly, the problem has engaged the attention of politicians. In a recent speech promising his plan for health-care reform, President Clinton said:

"Our plan will guarantee that high-quality information is available, in even the most remote areas of the country, so that we can have high-quality service linking rural doctors, for example, with hospitals with high-tech urban medical centers."

One model might well be the Winnsboro Telemedicine Demonstration Project. It links specialists from Richland Memorial Hospital and the University of South Carolina's School of Medicine with the John A. Martin Primary Health Care Center and Ferring Memorial Hospital in rural Winnsboro. Through an interactive video system called telemedicine, specialists can confer with general practitioners and their patients and analyze slides, X-rays or ultrasounds.

"This is absolutely exhilarating," gushed Dr. Stanley Fowler, USC School of Medicine's associate dean of research and development.

In a state where 34 of the 48 counties and portions of the remaining 12 are considered medically underserved, this state-of-the-art project developed in tandem with several high-tech businesses, notably BellSouth, has potential for upgrading health care and otherwise enhancing the quality of life for many rural folks.

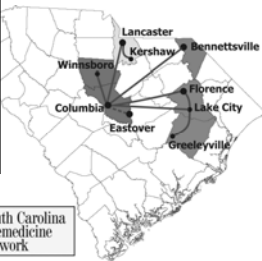

These South Carolinians often feel left out of the loop, isolated socially and economically from their neighbors in cities and suburbs. The Winnsboro Telemedicine Demonstration Project paves the way in one less barrier between the haves and the have-nots.

USC Telemedicine Outreach

Early Support for Telemedicine


- Fullerton Foundation
- + BellSouth and GTE
- Hughes Electronics

- Duke Endowment
- Sisters of Charity of SC
- Charity Trust of Marlboro County
- J Marion Simms Foundation
- + USDA Telemedicine & Distance Education Grants (3)

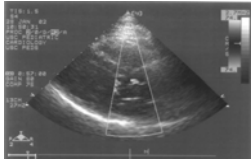



USC Telemedicine Projects


TelePsychiatry to Lancaster



Peds TeleCardiology to Florence




Vision Care in Greeleyville




Tandberg HCS-3 Unit


- Two-way audio-video
- Camera remote control
- Medical record transfer
- X-ray transmission
- Store and Forward data
- Link to medical equipment




Reimbursement for Teleconsultations




HCFA will not reimburse services provided by telemedicine!



South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners concerned by potential of physicians practicing across state lines by telemedicine




Telemedicine white paper submitted by USC to SC-DHHS;
SC Medicaid Waiver approved for reimbursement **October 1999**




**Telemedicine for Prisons
- Missed Opportunity -**

Win-win Application

- Published data indicate telemedicine is medically effective in diagnosis and management of over 70 percent of inmate patient's medical problems
- Studies indicate a large proportion of Inmates would rather see the consulting physician via telemedicine than travel to do so.




- ✓ Improve access to healthcare
- ✓ Significant cost savings
- ✓ Increase public safety




Delivery of TelePOWER

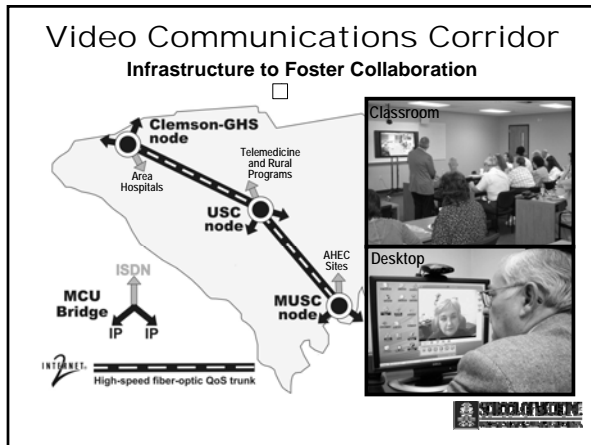
Can telemedicine be used as a medium for effective behavior therapy for weight loss in a rural setting?



- 12-month intervention (group and individual sessions)
 - 4 months (weekly sessions)
 - 2 months (biweekly sessions)
 - 6 months (monthly sessions)
- Via telemedicine to Lake City, SC
- 84% of the participants felt that TelePower was "special" and were comfortable with videoconferencing

Demonstration led to NIH – funded grant: **Bridging Barriers to Diabetes Care with Telemedicine** Dr. Richard Davis (PI)






Statewide Applications for Special Needs Clinical Programs

<p>Abuse South Carolina Children's Advocacy Medical Response System</p>	<p>Obesity South Carolina Institute for Childhood Obesity & Related Disorders</p>	<p>Autism South Carolina Autism Network</p>
--	--	--

- Four major Children's Hospitals in South Carolina for program coordination
- Satellite clinics in rural areas
- Specialist consultations
- Educational programs to physicians and families



Telemedicine is still "Absolutely Exhilarating"

