Supplemental EPA: Provide Health Care to Patients and Families Through the Use of Telemedicine

Supervision Scale for This EPA

1. Trusted to observe only
2. Trusted to execute with direct supervision and coaching
3. Trusted to execute with indirect supervision and discussion of information conveyed for selected simple and complex cases
4. Trusted to execute with indirect supervision and may require discussion of information conveyed but only for selected complex cases
5. Trusted to execute without supervision

Description of the Activity

Telemedicine is defined as the delivery of health care using technology to deliver care at a distance. Knowledge and skills beyond those of traditional in-person clinical care are imperative. One must be knowledgeable about:

1. Additional privacy and protection of health information measures in these circumstances, with an understanding of their application to children and adolescents;
2. Legalities of licensure to practice telemedicine;
3. Acceptable billing and coding practices for telemedicine encounters;
4. A basic understanding of the technology standards for use in these encounters and how to troubleshoot common problems; and
5. Types of patients and problems that can be successfully managed via a telemedicine encounter.

Further, clinical skills to appropriately perform a telemedicine visit include:

1. Effective communication via telemedicine technology;
2. Appropriate examination techniques that are adapted for telemedicine; and
3. Medical decision-making skills that allow for appropriate management and follow up of patients cared for via telemedicine.

The pediatric telemedicine EPA was developed to prepare individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice telemedicine as part of health care delivery.

The specific functions which define this EPA include:
- Knowing and applying medical decision-making skills in order to provide health services safely and effectively to patients and families via telemedicine
- Facilitating a family and patient-centered telemedicine experience
Recognizing and addressing unique medical, family, and patient circumstances that may impact the delivery of care during a telemedical visit

• Recognizing the potential for telemedicine to both improve and fragment access to health services as well as the specific factors that influence access to care via telemedicine

• Applies current regulatory information concerning telemedicine, including software requirements, technology security, and documentation and billing standards

• Demonstrating a knowledge of federal and locally privacy issues, maintenance of personal health information, and consent that apply to the use of telemedicine for patient care delivery, and specifically as they apply to children and adolescents

• Recognizing the value of and effectively utilizing essential and unique components of telemedicine team-based care, including team members and data sources

• Identifying safety-related concerns that arise during a telemedicine visit and responding appropriately to those concerns

Judicious Mapping of Competencies Critical to Entrustment Decisions*

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Context for the EPA

Rationale: Telemedicine has been an available patient care modality in pediatrics for decades, especially in subspecialty pediatrics, and has substantially increased in use in recent years. Therefore, it is vital that pediatric trainees are provided with the knowledge and skills to safely and effectively use telemedicine in their future practice.

Scope of Practice: This document is intended to address the expected knowledge and skills that apply to the use of telemedicine for a general or subspecialty pediatrician practicing in all settings. Pediatricians must be able to appropriately identify patients for which telemedicine is a safe and practical modality and should understand the capabilities and limitations of telemedicine to assess and examine children of all ages and abilities. It is also essential that pediatricians conduct telemedicine visits with the utmost professional standards and maintain the same professional conduct expected for in-person visits. Additionally,
understanding how telemedicine can affect the care of children and families with special health care needs including, but not limited to, complex medical conditions, mental health conditions, hearing or visual impairment, low English proficiency, and/or developmental considerations is crucial to the appropriate use of telemedicine in pediatrics. Further, pediatricians should recognize the impact of telemedicine in health care access as well as how social determinants of health affect the patients access to telemedicine and telemedicine experience. The pediatricians should have knowledge of the requirements related to documentation, billing, privacy, and consent for the telemedicine encounter versus the in-person visit. For telemedicine visits to operate seamlessly, pediatricians should possess a basic knowledge of the technical platforms utilized in telemedicine and understand how to use telemedicine to coordinate within a diverse interprofessional team of health care professionals. Finally, but importantly, pediatricians will need to be able to recognize and respond to safety concerns and emergency situations that may occur either during or as a result of a telemedicine visit.

References


