"Leveraging Innovation & Telehealth to Address Rural Access to Care"

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Rural Access to Health is Diminishing

- Texas leads the nation in rural hospital closures.
- In 2018-2019, 7 TX rural hospitals partially or completely closed, with no plan to reopen
- Loss of rural hospitals causes loss of indigent care, specialty care, tax revenue, employment, & shrinking economy.
  - Delays in treatment
  - Increased morbidity & mortality
  - Transportation issues
  - Lack of medical, nursing, support services
- In Milam County, Texas, 2 rural hospitals were lost in 2018-2019. No urgent or emergent care is available in the county. No access to hospital for 30-40 miles in any direction.
- Research Question: What sustainable innovative care model can be provided to improve access to care?
- The Texas A&M/OnMed HealthCare Station provides key technological advancements to address barriers to care experienced by rural communities. Telemedicine via phone/computer does not provide the clinician with clinical markers and does not have a "hands-on" feel for the patient.
- TAMU/OnMed HealthCare Station provides:
  - Instant HD Video Access to Clinical Care
  - Integrated WIFI enabled Diagnostic Tools
    - Scale Integrated into floor
    - Thermal Temperature Camera
    - Blood Pressure Cuff
    - Digital Stethoscope
    - Digital Pulse Oximeter
    - Han-Held HD Camera
  - UV Sanitation Lighting
  - Anti-Microbial Surfaces
  - Environmental Air Filtration
  - ADA access, Privacy Glass, Directional Audio
  - Integrated Pharmacy Robot, Onsite dispensing
- Use-Case expanding to integration of specialty care follow-up
- TAMU/OnMed Healthcare Station can be accessed as cash pay, BCBS In-Network provider, and via County membership model
- Research Objectives are to assess:
  - Feasibility of unmanned, stand-alone telemedicine health station providing care nights/weekends to a remote rural population
  - Acceptability of care model to target population
  - Usability and fault tolerance of the equipment
  - Perceived value of the care by target population
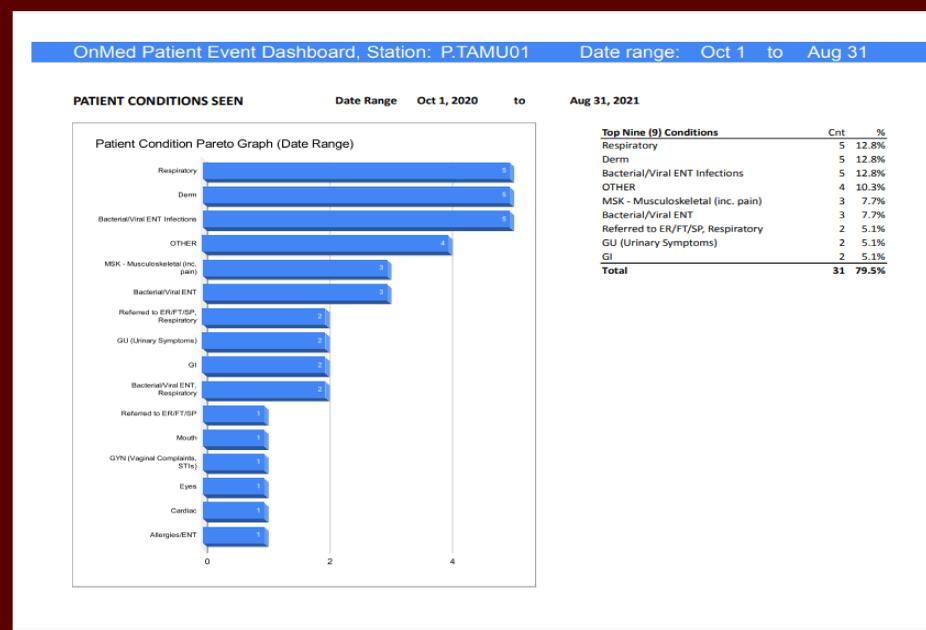 - Sustainability of the concept

Methods

- Process evaluation model, Community-based participatory research
- Community Health Needs Assessment to include historical use of closed hospitals.
- Community involvement key to designing intervention, community defined health care issues, emphasis on the development and maintenance on the community/research partnership
- High emphasis on sustainability of innovation in community

Results

Preliminary results suggest that implementation is feasible while community members find the intervention appropriate, usable and likeable. Utilization, final results pending, was the most challenging feature and struggles to promote sustainability.

Conclusion:

This study suggests that while the implementation will bridge the continuum of care for rural citizens, further efforts to promote utilization and access are necessary for the model to be sustainable and replicable.

User Data — bar chart comparing Demos and Patients across Usability, Reliability, Value for $, Recommend?

OnMed Patient Event Dashboard, Station: P.TAMU01   Date range: Oct 1 to Aug 31

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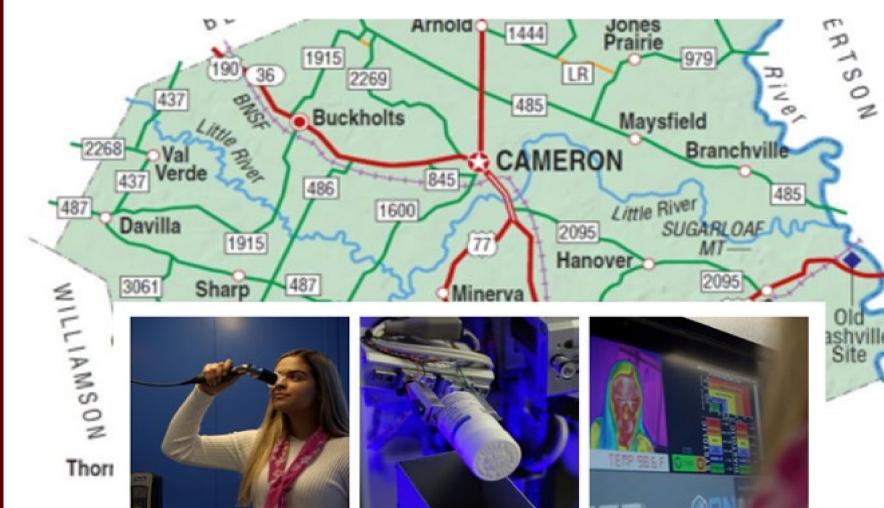

ON-DEMAND TELEHEALTH STATION IN CAMERON NOW OPEN — MONDAY–FRIDAY 12–7 PM, SATURDAY 7 AM–7 PM

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Milam County Sheriff's Office
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Ā&M HEALTH

Tackling Distance using Technology and Innovation

What do you do when the nearest after hours clinic is more than 30 minutes away?

Texas A&M Health and OnMed have teamed up to provide after hours care to Milam County. The first ever telehealth station in rural Texas will offer on-demand, convenient, affordable access to health care.

For more information please contact: moonshotp2@tamu.edu   www.moonshotp2.tamu.edu