Mind the Gap: Digital Divide and Health Equity

Digital Health Learning Collaborative
February 10, 2021
AGENDA

• Welcome

• Digital Health in the Biden Administration
  • New Faces & Regulatory Activity
  • New Coalition on the Block
  • Digital Health Events

• Health Equity and the Digital Divide: Javier Jiménez Jirau, Health Gorilla
  • Discussion Questions

• Learning Collaborative Wrap Up
BIDEN ADMINISTRATION APPOINTMENTS

- Secretary of Health and Human Services: Xavier Becerra
- Director of the Office for Civil Rights: TBD
- Acting CMS Administrator: Elizabeth Richter
- National Coordinator for Health IT: Micky Tripathi
- President of Office of Science and Technology Policy: Eric Lander
- Acting Chair of the Federal Trade Commission: Rebecca Kelly Slaughter
- Acting Chair of Federal Communications Commission: Jessica Rosenworcel
Proposed Modifications to the HIPAA Privacy Rule to Support, and Remove Barriers to, Coordinated Care and Individual Engagement

- Published in Federal Register: January 21, 2021
- Comments Due: March 22, 2021
- Areas of focus:
  - Care Coordination
  - Facilitating information disclosures during a health emergency
  - Modifications to requirements on the Notice of Privacy Practices
KEY PROVISIONS

• Individual right of access
  • Providing faster access to HIPAA PHI (15 days)
  • Providing additional opportunities to inspect records in person
  • Reducing the costs associated with access and clarifying applicable costs
  • Facilitating disclosures to personal health records and other third parties

• Reducing identify verification burden
  • Prohibition on “unreasonable” requests for verification of identity

• Clarifying Ability to Disclose PHI to Certain Third Parties
  • New permission to disclose information to third-party social service agencies

• Changing Rules of Disclosure of PHI for Individuals with Mental Illness, Substance Abuse Disorders, and in Emergency Situations
  • Shifting from “Professional Judgment” to “Good Faith” Standard for Certain Disclosures
TELEHEALTH EQUITY COALITION

• Launched by National HIT Collaborative, American Telemedicine Association, Hims & Hers, and 9 other organizations

• Plan to offer a unique voice to optimize equitable telehealth delivery and utilization
  • Driven to improve access to quality and affordable healthcare by increasing adoption of telehealth, especially among those communities who have been left out or left behind

• Looking for members!

• [https://www.telehealthequitycoalition.org/](https://www.telehealthequitycoalition.org/)
SAVE THE DATE

• Live plenary presentations with interactive group chats.
• Pre-recorded breakout sessions (never miss a session and participate at your leisure).
• An interactive poster hall featuring the latest research on a diverse range of health topics.
• Unique group and/or one-to-one virtual networking opportunities.
SAVE THE DATE

• Health IT Leadership Roundtable
  • March 11, 2021

• Discuss the evolution of technology and data in advancing patient care, and the upcoming opportunities to make progress.

• Host Committee: National Partnership for Women & Families, American Academy of Family Physicians, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, and 8 additional organizations

• Register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hPthJBUXSgunps2qlu2jjQ
Digital Health Learning Collaborative

Mind the Gap
Digital Divide and Health Equity

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 @ 2pm ET

Javier Jiménez - VP Health Gorilla - javier@healthgorilla.com
Digital health is transforming our delivery of acute and preventive care.*

* This is the promise, what we hope to do…
What is Digital Health Care?
It is the use technology to improve access to patients, increase the efficiency of health care delivery and in the end improve health care outcomes.
Backbone for Digital Health?

Access = Telecommunications = Internet

Bridging The Digital Divide For All Americans
FCC indicates broadband is not available to 24.7M people

Microsoft data indicates 162.8M people do not use the internet at broadband speeds

Maps showing large differences of broadband access vs. actual usage of broadband.

* FCC fixed broadband has or "could" provide greater than or equal to 25Mbps / 3Mbps

Data sources: FCC 2018 Broadband Report based on Form 477 data from December 2016 and Microsoft data from September 2018
Counties with the highest unemployment rate have lower broadband usage

49.5% Broadband usage

47.6% 10 counties with the lowest unemployment rate

20.2% 10 counties with the highest unemployment rate

-27.4% Difference

Average broadband usage based on Microsoft data

Digital Health Care Divide
What is it?
“the gap of unequal accessibility and experience for access and use of modern information and communication technologies.”

Refers to the **growing gap** between the underprivileged members of society, especially the poor, rural, elderly, and handicapped portion of the population who do not have access to computers or the internet; and the **wealthy, middle-class, and young Americans** living in urban and suburban areas who have access.

We must study the digital divide in terms of “participation” and “quality of use” and not just the scope of the equipment.

The existence of a digital divide is directly associated with four elements:

1. The **availability** of a computer (or other hardware element) that allows citizens to **connect** to the internet.
2. The possibility of logging in and **accessing** the network, from home, work or the office.
3. **Knowledge** of the basic tools for access to “browse” the network.
4. Suitable capability to **allow** the information accessible on the network to be converted into “**knowledge**” by the user.
Key data points to look for?
Some Digital Disparities

- Age
- Race
- Gender
- Income
- Education
- Zip Code
- Community Resources
- Language
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### Social Determinants of Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Stability</th>
<th>Neighborhood and Physical Environment</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Community and Social Context</th>
<th>Health Care System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>Hunger</td>
<td>Social integration</td>
<td>Health coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Access to healthy options</td>
<td>Support systems</td>
<td>Provider availability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Early childhood education</td>
<td></td>
<td>Community engagement</td>
<td>Provider linguistic and cultural competency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt</td>
<td>Parks</td>
<td>Vocational training</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discrimination</td>
<td>Quality of care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical bills</td>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>Higher education</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stress</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Walkability</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Zip code / geography</td>
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**Health Outcomes**

Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations

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*KFF*
Clinical care only accounts for a small percentage of the impact on outcomes. Psychological, behavioral and environmental factors play a much larger role.
COVID-19 is the first pandemic in the digital health era…
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...opportunities that become available due to the COVID-19 global health crisis
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• Telemedicine Expansion
• Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM)
• Health Data Exchange (Interoperability)
• Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence
• Internet of Medical Things
• Remote and/or mobile health services
FCC Initiatives

Bridging The Digital Divide For All Americans

High-speed Internet access, or broadband, is critical to economic opportunity, job creation, education, and civic engagement. But there are too many parts of this country where broadband is unavailable. Closing the digital divide between those who have access to cutting-edge communications services and those who do not is a top FCC priority. Every American who wants to participate in the digital economy should be able to do so.

5G Leadership

The United States is moving swiftly to lead the world in the next generation of wireless connectivity—or 5G. These new networks and technologies will enable faster speeds and low-latency wireless broadband services, cultivating the Internet of Things, and innovations not yet imagined.
TELEMEDICINE IS THE TOP TELEHEALTH SUBCATEGORY ON THE LIST

2020 Digital Health 150 telehealth companies by subcategory

- Telemedicine platforms: 31%
- Remote monitoring & diagnostics: 27%
- Therapy & coaching: 18%
- Virtual primary care: 11%
- Virtual assistants: 6%
- Telepharmacy & Rx subscriptions: 6%
CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

SIGN THE PETITION TO CLOSE SAN FRANCISCO'S Gaping Digital Divide!

IT'S EASY, YOU JUST LOG IN USING YOUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER ACCOUNT...
LOOKING BACK

• October 14: Consumer Priorities in Digital Health
  • Passcode: 10-14-DHLC

• November 18: Regulatory Activity In Digital Health & Privacy
  • Passcode: 11-18-DHLC

• December 9: Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Data and the Gravity Project
  • Passcode: December9-DHLC

• January 13: Beyond HIPAA: Consumer Health Privacy Framework
  • Passcode: 1-13-DHLC

• February 10: Health Equity and Digital Health
  • Passcode: 2-10-DHLC
THANK YOU!

• Coming Soon:
  • January & February meeting summaries
  • Final Consumer Privacy Framework (eHI & CDT)

• Final reflections: Lina Walker, AARP Public Policy Institute
CONTACT US

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