TITLE: Telehealth Assessment of Patients Being Retained for Emergent Mental Health Reasons: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines

DATE: 21 March 2016

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical evidence regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of the use of telehealth for the assessment of patients who are being retained due to emergent mental health reasons?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the use of telehealth for the assessment of patients who are being retained due to emergent mental health reasons?

KEY FINDINGS

No relevant studies or evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of the use of telehealth for the assessment of patients who are being retained due to emergent mental health reasons.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, PsycINFO, The Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2006 and March 14, 2016. Internet links were provided, where available.

SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.
Table 1: Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Patients (adult or pediatric) who are being retained in a hospital or other facility due to: risk of deterioration of mental health, harm or imminent risk to themselves or to others</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Telehealth psychiatric assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparator</td>
<td>No comparator; in-person psychiatric assessment</td>
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| Outcomes | Q1: adequate assessment of the patient; effectiveness of telehealth to assess the patient, safety of patient, safety of those who may be harmed by patients  
Q2: guidelines regarding the adequacy, effectiveness, safety, or legality of using telehealth assessment for the assessment of this population |
| Study Designs | Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, guidelines |

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of the use of telehealth for the assessment of patients who are being retained due to emergent mental health reasons; no evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of telehealth for this group of patients.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations
No literature identified.

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Telehealth Assessment for Emergent Mental Health
APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Previous CADTH Reports


Systematic Review – Unclear Population


Non-Randomized Studies – Unclear Population


Practice Guidelines – Unclear Methodology


**Review Articles**

   PubMed: PM26507786

    PubMed: PM21119593

    PubMed: PM20575615

    PubMed: PM18548515

**Additional References**

    PubMed: PM25688413

    PubMed: PM24195141