

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. Clinicians should know their patients are participating in telehealth.
2. Clinicians should know the telehealth results and incorporate this information into the care of the patient.
3. Clinicians should have a basic understanding of the telehealth equipment to assess if patient or caregiver is using it correctly.
4. Patients participating in telehealth should have education material in the home that clinicians can reference.

**EQUIPMENT:**

Telehealth monitor

Peripheral devices: Blood pressure monitor/cuffs, scale, pulse oximeter, glucometer, etc., as needed

Power cords, adapters, connecting cables, batteries

Surge protector

Communication line: Telephone/splitter, DSL, cable

Patient Education Guide

**PROCEDURE:**

1. When telehealth monitoring is implemented, in-home nursing visits will include:
  - a. Use of monitor equipment to obtain vital signs and/or other health status parameters
  - b. Evaluate patient technique and appropriate monitor use
  - c. Inspection of the monitoring system
  - d. Inspection of the power cord for frays or connections to unauthorized equipment
  - e. Inspection of cables to ensure they are properly attached and in good condition
  - f. Validation that all tethered devices are securely attached or wireless devices remain paired
  - g. Ensure monitor is not standing in or near water
  - h. Ensure monitor has not been moved to an unsuitable location
  - i. Evaluate and reinforce patient education on the safe operation of the monitor and associated devices
  - j. Evaluate the patient's learning needs for understanding disease process, treatments/medication and overall plan of care
  - k. Integrate appropriate subjective questions into the teaching and clearly communicate or quantify what a "yes" or "no" answer means
2. Evaluate patient status; identify subtle changes in condition.
3. Identify physiological response to changes in treatment.

4. Identify specific patient learning needs to reinforce, improve or alter behavior. (Non-adherence to medications, diet, or other physician ordered treatments).
5. Perform treatments/tests according to the Plan of Care.
6. Notify physician of findings that require interventions during the visit. Implement as ordered. Document patient response.

**AFTER CARE:**

1. Document all contacts with physician, communicating about the patient's status and needs.
2. Document pertinent assessment findings, problems identified and interventions taken. Include what was taught, patient response, and progress toward goals.
3. Report any updated patient demographics, clinical status, or changes in the Plan of Care to the telehealth monitoring nurse.
4. Be sure the patient understands the plan and knows who to call if condition worsens or there are concerns.

**REFERENCE:**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Quality Insights of Pennsylvania. (2006). *Home Telehealth Reference 2006/2007* (8SOW-PA-HHQ06.189).

Kinsella, A. (2008). *The Home Telehealth Primer*. Retrieved April 16, 2012 from <http://www.InformationForTomorrow.com>

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