



JULY NEWSLETTER THE LATEST IN TELEHEALTH NEWS



**UMTRC
NEWS**

JULY UPDATES FROM THE UMTRC

As we celebrate America's 250th birthday this July, we honor a legacy of innovation, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to expanding opportunity for all. Throughout our nation's history, transformative advancements have reshaped how we live, work, and care for one another.

Today, telehealth represents the next chapter in that story. At the Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center (UMTRC), we are proud to help in this transformation by ensuring that geography is no longer a barrier to quality healthcare. Over the next 250 years, telehealth will continue to redefine healthcare delivery through emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, remote patient monitoring, and virtual care models that bring expertise directly into homes and communities.

As we look to the future, our commitment remains to advance access, foster innovation, and empower healthcare providers and patients alike. By embracing technology while keeping people at the center of care, we are helping build a healthier and more connected America for generations to come.

Antonia Sawyer, MS.

Program Director, UMTRC

NEW PODCAST

Listen to the IRHA Podcast while A Virtual View is on break!: Feeding Rural Hoosiers Medically Tailored Meals with Homestyle Direct.

Join our host, [Danielle Renckly](#), for a conversation with [Jeffrey Barteau](#), the CEO of [Homestyle Direct](#). Learn more about how delivering healthy, precooked, medically tailored meals can improve the health of rural Hoosiers and more.

[**Listen Now**](#)



NEW WEBINARS

The Importance of Operations Planning for Telehealth: How to Develop a Plan that Works

Join the Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center for a practical discussion on how to develop an operations plan for a telehealth program of any size.

Objectives covered will include:

- Learn how to identify the information you need to develop a usable and scalable operations plan for your telehealth program with examples from the UMTRC
- Discuss the importance of standardizing operations and how emergency response triggers should be written into an operations plan
- Examine the opportunities and challenges that new and emerging technologies bring to operations planning

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

Health Highlights – Staying Cool this Summer with Telehealth

This July there has been a heat wave throughout the nation. When you and your family are going outside this summer, make sure that you're taking precautions to beat the heat! Make sure you're properly hydrated, take breaks during exercise, and ensure that little ones and those with chronic conditions don't stay out too long. While we can't (and shouldn't!) stay inside all summer, telehealth can be a great way to avoid going out for those with complex health needs that can be exacerbated by the heat.

Stay cool and stay connected with telehealth!

EVENTS

Tee Up for Rural Health!

Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Time: 11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Back 9 Golf & Entertainment

Join the Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) for our 2026 Golf Outing—a fun-filled day of golf and networking all while supporting IRHA's mission to strengthen rural healthcare across Indiana.

IRHA Lunch and Learns

Our parent organization, the Indiana Rural Health Association, regularly hosts free Lunch and Learn webinars that cover topics from telehealth to community leadership. You can register for these webinars on the IRHA's webinar [here](#).

Some upcoming sessions include:

August 18th - Friend or Foe: What Virtual Health Means for Rural Hospitals

More Events

- [August 3rd - The CTRC 2026 AI Cohort Series – AI Scribes in Action: Lessons from a Practicing Physician](#)
- [August 21st - TeleBehavioral Health 2026: Supporting School Behavioral Health Through Telehealth](#)

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NEWS UPDATES

News Updates – Proposed Physician Fee Schedule Impacts RPM and RTM

Early in July the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) released their proposed [CY 2027 Physician Fee Schedule \(PFS\)](#). This proposed physician fee schedule outlines the expected changes to the Medicaid program in the upcoming year. While most proposed changes to telehealth were more or less expected, there are significant proposed changes to coverage around Remote Physiologic and Therapeutic Monitoring. CMS is proposing that RPM and RTM payment only be made to clinical staff employed by the practice. This would hinder services that utilize clinical services contracted via a third party provider.

At this point, everything in the proposed physician fee schedule is merely a proposal. Comment is still open – the actual fee schedule will come out later this year.

For a more detailed write-up of everything included in the proposed PFS, see [this email](#) sent by our friends at the Center for Connected Health Policy.

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Newsletter Information

Published July 31, 2026

Email Subject: July Newsletter from the UMTRC