

Telehealth Services at VA Pacific Islands Health Care System

Updated August 15, 2008

Telehealth Services at VAPIHCS began with the help of the Pacific Telehealth & Technology Hui (Hui) in 2001. Prior to Hui involvement, occasional telephonic consultation and videoteleconferencing (VTC) were the only forms of telehealth practiced.

Regarding the Pacific Telehealth & Technology Hui:

Background: In December 1999, VAPIHCS, Honolulu and Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) at the urging of Senator Daniel K. Inouye signed a Memorandum of Agreement to establish the first joint DoD/VA telehealth partnership. The *DoD/VA Pacific Telehealth and Technology Hui*, as it is known, is responsible for executing telehealth and technology dollars provided in DoD appropriations for the Hawaii Federal Health Care Partnership. The Network established by language included in the FY '01 appropriation, includes DoD, VA, and the Native Hawaiian Healthcare System. The Network is one of two such networks – the other being the Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership comprised of VA, DoD, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Indian Health Service.

Objective/Purpose: Provide equitable, safe health care for all veterans in the Pacific Islands Healthcare System.

Military Relevance: Active duty personnel in Am Samoa have limited access to VTC units at the CBOC. Guam CBOC is located in the Guam Naval Hospital. This clinic can provide VTC connectivity to DoD sites via a multipoint conferencing unit on the VA network to connect to DoD sites on a dial-up VTC network (such as TAMC)

The following table is a summary of telehealth services provided at VAPIHCS:

Telehealth Specialty	CBOC Availability	Consultant Information	Telehealth Technology
Dermatology	ALL (except Am Sam)	SFVAMC	Store/Fwd (Vista Imaging)
Dietetics	ALL	VA	VTC
Cardiology (on hiatus – staffing)	ALL	VA	VTC Digital Steth
Surgery Pre/post-op	ALL	SFVAMC Gen Surg	VTC
Vascular Surgery	ALL	Martinez	VTC
Orthopedic Surgery	ALL	Palo Alto	VTC
Spinal Cord Injury Clinic	ALL	PAVAMC	Multipoint VTC
PFTs (on hiatus- staffing/equipment)	ALL	VA	Brentwood
ADDS	Maui, Hilo, Kauai, Guam, Am Sm	VA Pharmacy	ADDS
Home Telehealth	Honolulu, Hilo	VA	Health Buddy
Tele Mental Health C&P	ALL	VA	VTC

Staff CME Activities	ALL	Varies	VTC
ADDS – Automatic Drug Dispensing System		PAVAMC – Palo Alto VAMC	
DoD – Dept of Defense		PFT – Pulmonary Functions Test	
ICU – Intensive Care Unit		SFVAMC – San Francisco VAMC	
UH – University of Hawaii		VTC – Video Teleconference	

Current usage: In the last 6 months, telehealth traffic has been at a vary low level due to staffing shortages. The following information covers the last 180 days.

CLINIC NAME:	Encount.	Visits	Uniques
TH HON NUTRITION PROVIDER	26	26	25
KAU TH MH ROGERS	24	24	12
HIL TH DERM	20	20	20
TH MH HON GERI PSYCH	16	16	4
TH HON PA SCI	7	7	7
TH HON VASC SURG PROVIDER	7	7	7
TH HON GEN SURG PROVIDER	6	6	5
KAU TH PFT	4	4	4
TH HON NEUROSURG PROVIDER	3	3	3
TH MH HIL PSY ASSESSMENT	2	2	1
TH MH HON C&P	2	2	2
HIL TH NUTRITION	4	4	4
KON TH MH TSRP INDIV	1	1	1
KON TH NUTRITION	1	1	1
MAU TH GEN SURG PROVIDER 1	3	3	2
MAU TH MH SPRENGER	3	3	2
MAU TH NUTRITION	12	12	12
MAU TH VASC SURG PROVIDER 1	1	1	1
REPORT TOTAL:	142	140	111

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