

# RAPID ADOPTION OF TELEMEDICINE FOR ADOLESCENTS & YOUNG ADULTS

Barney A, Buckelew S, Mesheriakova V, Raymond-Flesch M. J Adolesc Health. 2020 Aug; 67(2): 164-171.

## *Creating new models of care during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**Telemedicine** is two-way, live communication between the patient and provider at separate locations using audiovisual equipment, and was **rapidly adopted** at the UCSF Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine Clinic in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2020.

*During the first full-month of implementation, provider telemedicine visits increased from 0% to 97%...*



*...while maintaining the same level of overall clinical visits compared to the same month in the previous year.*

**To achieve this, the clinic had to address numerous challenges, including:**

- assuring privacy in remote locations
- obtaining data from physical examinations
- coordinating care among clinic staff
- providing mental healthcare

**Responding to the challenges of rapid implementation required:**



Collaboration of all clinic staff members



Continuous reassessment of clinical practices



Logistical problem solving



Innovative networking with local providers

*By responding creatively, the clinical program succeeded in providing care via telemedicine for almost all appointments, including:*

**general health**

**mental health**

**reproductive health**

**eating disorders**

**addiction treatment**



Read the article [here](#) to learn more about the challenges and solutions, ongoing barriers, and opportunities for expanding high quality care.

Infographic by the [Adolescent & Young Adult Health National Resource Center](#). For article funding sources, [click here](#).