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SCOPING REVIEW: PATIENTS USING TELEHEALTH FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY (SCI)

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**TELEHEALTH**

- Delivery of health related services and information through telecommunication technologies
- May be used for preventive, diagnostic, educational and therapeutic interventions
- Multiple modalities are involved including text, audio, video, and/or a combination of
- Synonymous with telemedicine and telecare
SPINAL CORD INJURY

- Useful for patients with impaired mobility
- SCI patients have increased risk for developing secondary conditions
- As length of stay times decrease, telehealth may be able to augment patient care
- SCI patients are amongst the most complex and costly to manage in the health care system
TECHNOGEOGRAPHY OF CARE

- Ways in which technologies participate in changing the landscape of care, redefining the meaning of these places and creating new sites where care takes place.

- How technologies contribute to creating interdependencies and distributing responsibilities between people, places and technical devices, thus reconfiguring who cares.
• Close integration of human and technical resources to get work done

• While new technologies are introduced to increase work productivity, they can actually disrupt the social system of the workplace

• Practitioners may have to redistribute their work and tasks among different human and non-human elements

• Telehealth stretches out and expands medical practice producing a new set of activities and identities
(Bensink et al, 2006)
SCOPING REVIEW

• A scoping review attempts to characterize the main concepts and breadth of perspectives that exist on a particular topic area, and to identify gaps within the literature and practice

• Search strategy:
  • Used MEDLINE, Web of Science and Pub Med

• Yielded 14 studies for charting

• Categorized studies by author, study design, population, objectives, interventions, findings, conclusions and limitations
SECONDARY CONDITIONS

- Secondary Conditions include pressure ulcers, skin wounds and sores, depression, mood disorders, hypertension, obesity, bladder infection, type 2 diabetes

- Telehealth can provide rehabilitation through physical therapy, dietary education, home safety evaluation, home exercise programs, psychosocial counselling and advice on properly using prosthesis and other assistive devices
TECHNICAL FOCUS

- Medical encounters may be facilitated by text, audio, video or a combination of
- Most data is transmitted through analogue plain old telephone lines, digital lines, internet-based connections and wireless connections
- Videoconferencing was found to yield more reliable and valid assessments than telephone
- Technologies have clinical value and augment patient care
GAPS IN LITERATURE

• Dearth on studies focusing on interpersonal and patient experiences

• Theoretical and critical bodies remain markedly underdeveloped

• Need to go beyond telehealth outcomes and focus on process including provider-patient encounter and sites of care

• Studies are largely descriptive

• Lack of qualitative studies that employ methods such as ethnography and interviews to capture the patient experience
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Scoping review highlights knowledge gaps for further investigation.

- Conceptual models provide framework for investigating social and interpersonal factors which are lacking.

- Helps to refocus search strategy to understand areas of the literature that have been less examined.

- Additional Recommendations?


