

REIMBURSEMENT FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES

What is Telemedicine?

Telemedicine is a health care **delivery** method that links a patient and a provider who are not at the same location and is identical to a traditional healthcare visit **except for the mode of delivery**

Two Forms of Transmission?

- Store and forward (asynchronous) - sending clinical information or picture images (anything recordable) to a provider for evaluation, consult or treatment

Things to Remember

- No telemedicine CPT codes - telemedicine is not a service provided, it is a **mode of delivery**
- There are two telemedicine modifiers that alert payers of telemedicine presentation **and** two HCPCs codes for transmission and facility charges

Telemedicine and HIPAA



OCR PRIVACY BRIEF

SUMMARY OF THE HIPAA PRIVACY RULE

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacysummary.pdf#search='summary%20of%20the%20HIPAA%20privacy%20rule'>

HIPAA cont.

Permitted Uses and Disclosures:

A covered entity is permitted, but not required, to use and disclose protected health information, without an individual's authorization, for the following purposes or situations:

- (1) To the Individual (unless required for access or accounting of disclosures)
- (2) Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations
Note: CHECK INDIVIDUAL PAYOR GUIDELINES
- (3) Incident to an otherwise use and disclosure

Definition of Interactive

**Two-way, real-time
(live) interactive
communication
between the
patient and the
physician or
practitioner at the
distant site.
(Videoconference)**



Photo credit: <http://murray.senate.gov>

Store & Forward

Asynchronous (not live) transmission of medical information to be reviewed at a later time by a health care provider at the distant (consulting) site.



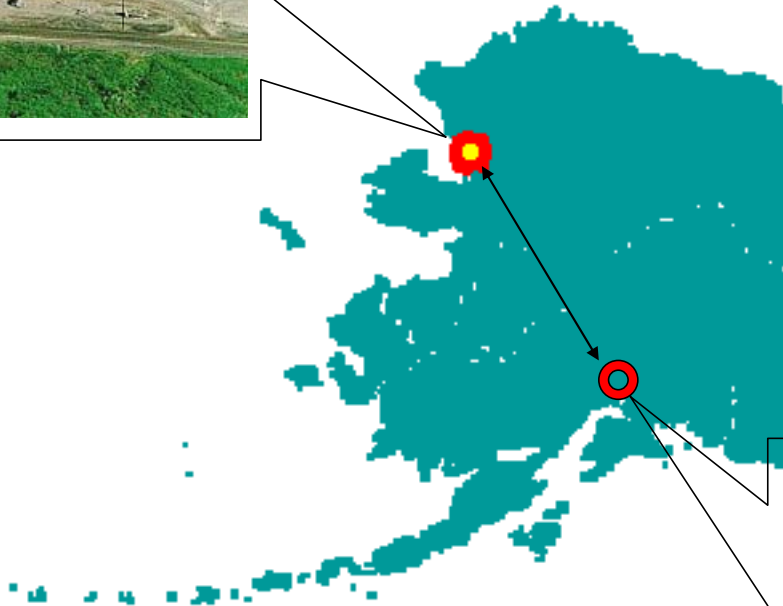
Store & Forward

Medical Information may include, but is not limited to:

- **Video clips**
- **Still images**
- **X-rays**
- **EKG's**
- **EEG's**
- **Audio clips**



Visit 1



One Store &
Forward Case
= 2 BILLABLE
VISITS

Visit 2



Visit 1

Patient is seen by a nurse practitioner at Maniilaq Health Center in Kotzebue for a rash. The nurse practitioner would like a second opinion on how to treat the rash. She requests a consult with a dermatologist at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

Visit 2

The dermatologist at ANMC in Anchorage views the patient via telemedicine and documents the

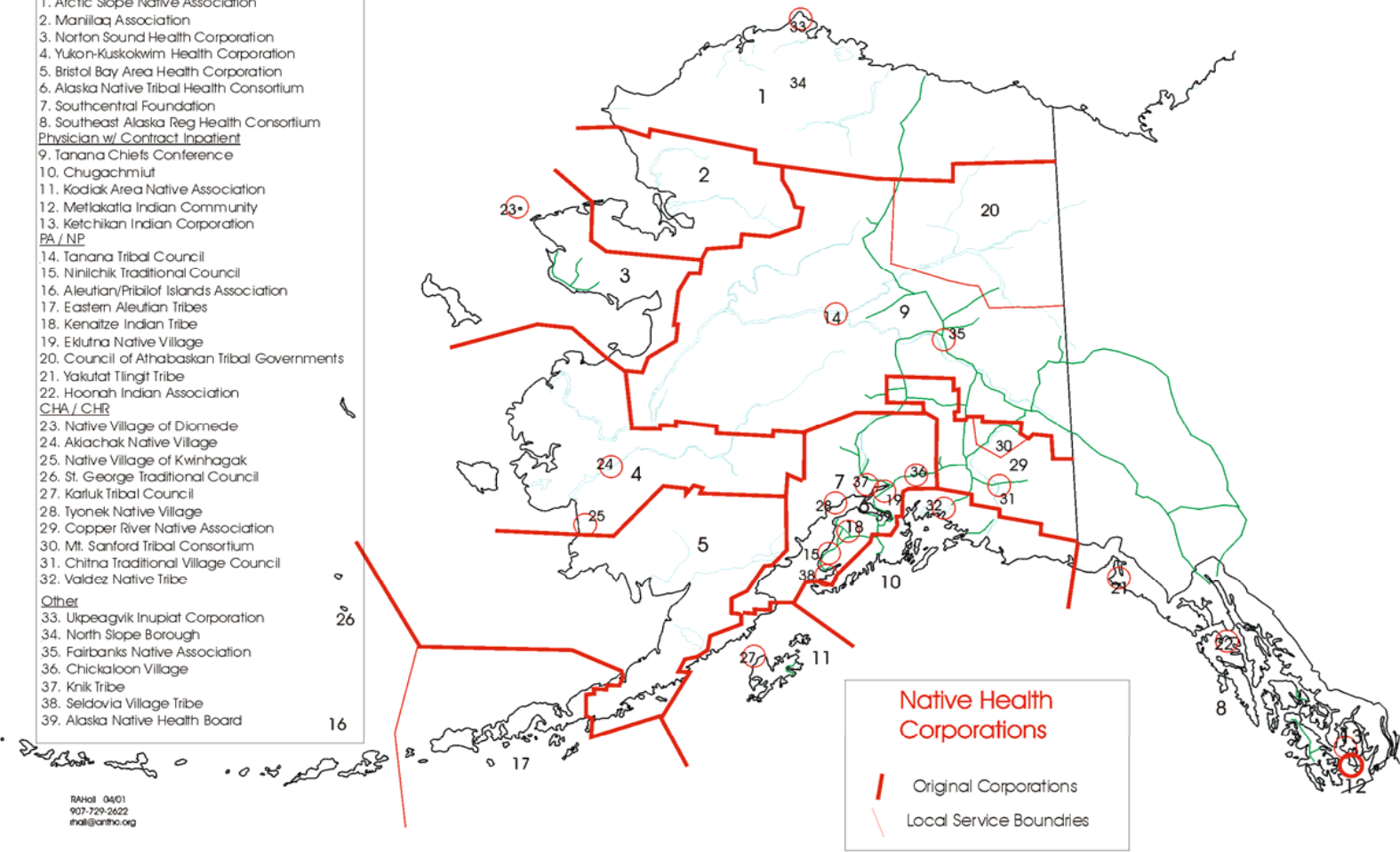
- Request for consult
- Reason for the request
- Rendering an opinion
- Report to the requesting provider

Telemedicine

THE ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Native Health Corporations providing health care under contract or compact with IHS

- Physician w/ Direct Inpatient
1. Arctic Slope Native Association
 2. Maniilaq Association
 3. Norton Sound Health Corporation
 4. Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
 5. Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
 6. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
 7. Southcentral Foundation
 8. Southeast Alaska Reg Health Consortium
- Physician w/ Contract Inpatient
9. Tanana Chiefs Conference
 10. Chugachmiut
 11. Kodiak Area Native Association
 12. Metlakatla Indian Community
 13. Ketchikan Indian Corporation
- PA / NP
14. Tanana Tribal Council
 15. Ninilchik Traditional Council
 16. Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association
 17. Eastern Aleutian Tribes
 18. Kenaitze Indian Tribe
 19. Eklutna Native Village
 20. Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments
 21. Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
 22. Hoonah Indian Association
- CHA / CHR
23. Native Village of Diomedea
 24. Akiachak Native Village
 25. Native Village of Kwihagak
 26. St. George Traditional Council
 27. Karluk Tribal Council
 28. Tyonek Native Village
 29. Copper River Native Association
 30. Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium
 31. Chitna Traditional Village Council
 32. Valdez Native Tribe
- Other
33. Ukepeagvik Inupiat Corporation
 34. North Slope Borough
 35. Fairbanks Native Association
 36. Chickaloon Village
 37. Knik Tribe
 38. Selkovia Village Tribe
 39. Alaska Native Health Board



RNHI 04/01
907-729-2622
mailto:anahc.org

Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital Barrow, Alaska



Maniilaq Health Center Kotzebue, Alaska



Norton Sound Regional Hospital Nome, Alaska



Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital Bethel, Alaska



Kanakanak Hospital Dillingham, Alaska



Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital Sitka, Alaska



Alaska Native Medical Center Anchorage, Alaska



Community Health Aide



CHA/Ps

- 550 Community Health Aides/Practitioners
- Staffing 170 rural Alaska clinics

Store and Forward



CHA/P Clinic in Point Hope, Alaska



AFHCAN

- Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network
- Began in 1998 to improve access to health care for federal beneficiaries
- Veterans Administration, Department of Defense, US Coast Guard, Indian Health Service, and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (managing partner)

AFHCAN

- Over 50,000 telehealth encounters since 2001
- 12,000 cases/year
- 36,323 patients received care via TM
- 643 providers

Version 3



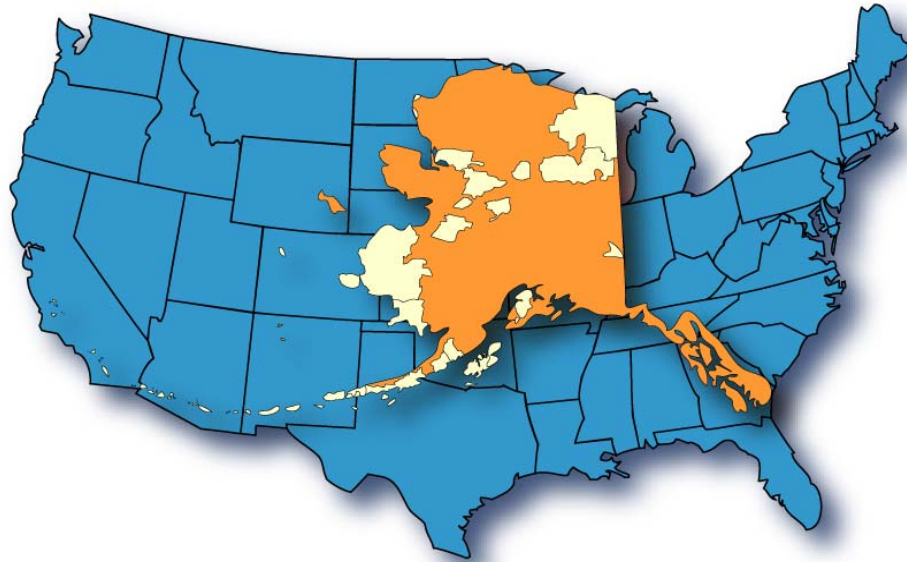
•Basic Cart:

- Otoscope
- Digital Camera
- Scanner
- ECG

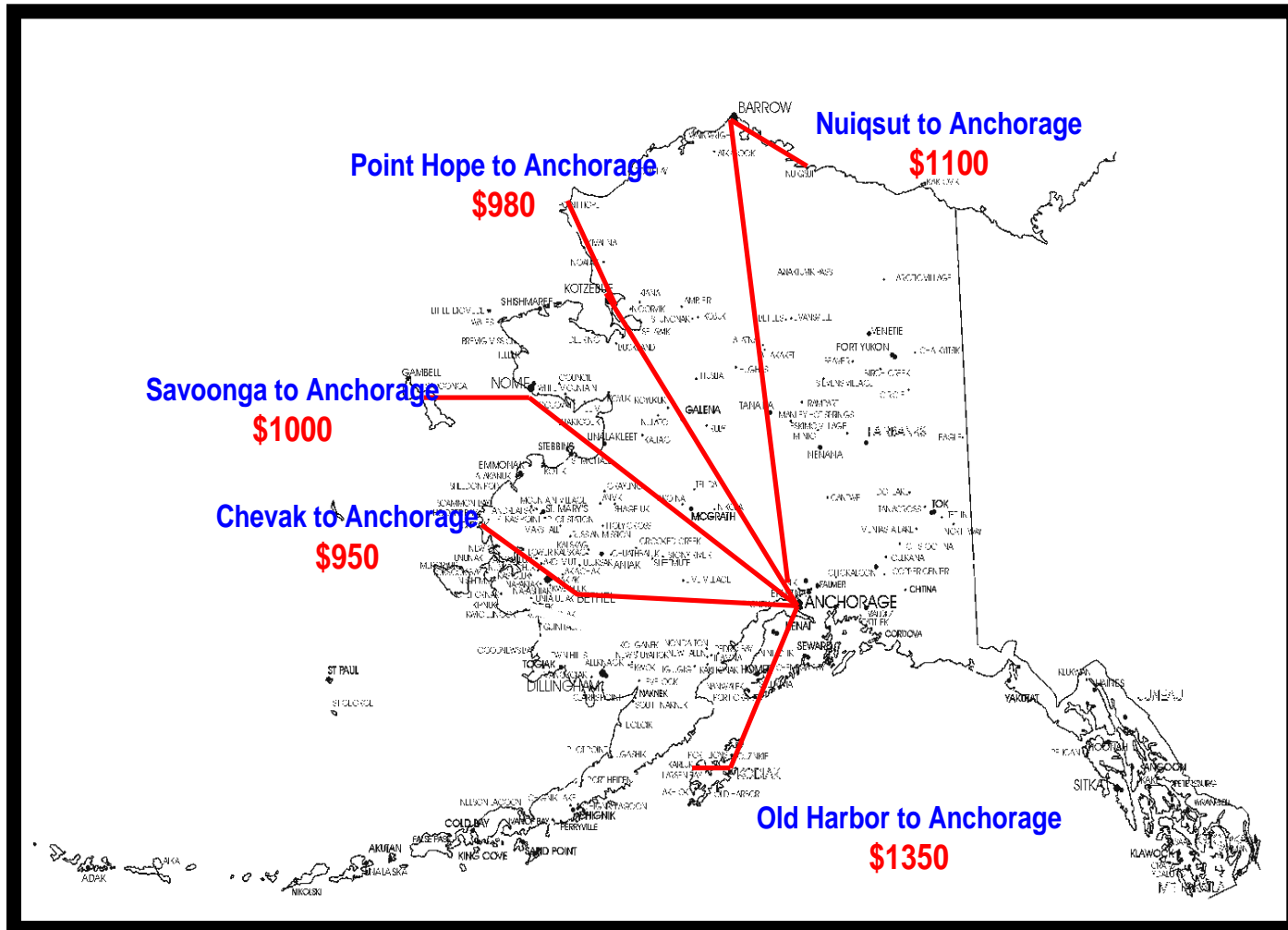
•Extras:

- Tympanometer/Audiometer
- Spirometer
- Vital Signs Monitor (pulse oximeter, blood pressure, temperature and pulse)
- VTC Equipment
- Dental (Intraoral) Camera
- Stethoscope

Size of Alaska Relative to the Continental U.S.



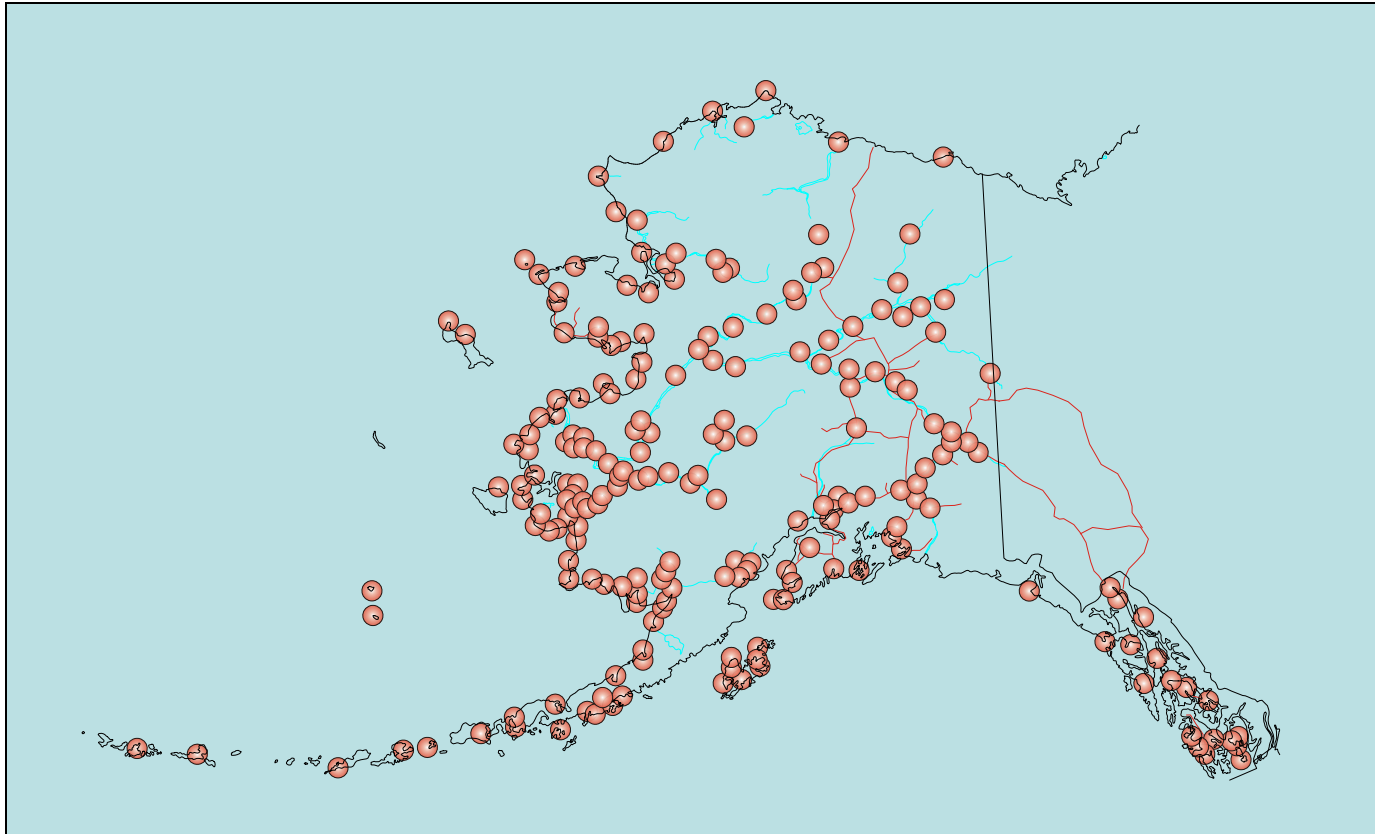
Typical round trip airfares to Anchorage



Impact of Preventing Patient Travel

	Primary Care	Specialty Consults
# cases	38,061	10,685
# Pts avoiding travel	7884	7743
Savings	\$3.55 m	\$10.45 m

AFHCAN Sites in Alaska



Staffing at AFHCAN Sites

Provider Level	Percent
Physician (MD)	13%
PA/Nurse Practitioner	10%
Public Health Nurse	10%
Community Health Aide	66%

Telemedicine Sites

Sites

- Distant or Hub site
 - Location of the physician or other licensed practitioner at the time the service is provided
- Originating or Spoke site
 - Location of the patient at the time the service is provided

CMS Eligible Originating Sites

- Physician or practitioner office
- Hospital
- Critical access hospital (CAH)
- Rural health clinic (RHC)
- Federally qualified health center (FQHC)
and as of 1/1/09:
- Skilled nursing facility (SNF)
- Hospital-based dialysis center (HDC)
- Community mental health center (CMHC)

CMS Location of Facility

- The originating site (where the eligible Medicare beneficiary is located) must be an eligible facility located outside of a Metropolitan Statistical area
- No facility limitation on the location of the health professional delivering the medical service (referring site)

Telemedicine Providers

CMS Eligible TM Provider Types

- Physician
- Psychiatrist
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Midwife
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Clinical Social Worker
- Registered Dietitian or Nutrition Professional

Requesting Provider (originating site-where the patient is located)

Face to Face visit. Provider evaluates a patient, determines the need for a consultation, and arranges services of a consulting provider for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment.

Presenting Provider (Where the Patient is Physically Located)

- Introduces a patient to consulting provider during an interactive telemedicine session
- This provider “role” is not required and would only be used during a live interactive (not Store and Forward) session

Distant Site Provider

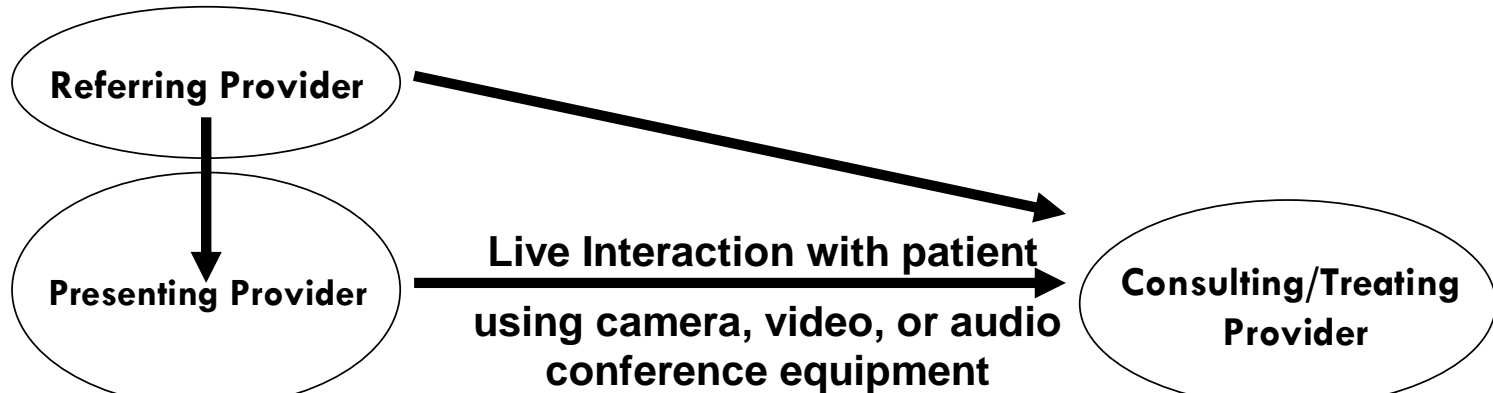
Evaluates/treats the patient and/or medical data/images using telemedicine mode of delivery upon recommendation of the referring provider

Provider Telemedicine Roles

Store-and-Forward Mode of Delivery



Interactive Mode of Delivery



Example of Presenting Provider

**Monday –
Pt to
clinic with
knee
injury**



**Tuesday – Pt presented by
provider to consultant in
Anchorage**

**Tuesday – Ortho
provider consult
in Anchorage**