

## Behavioral Health Tech Review

National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2) T2health.dcoe.mil

June 2015 | Volume 4, Issue 2

## Digital Technology Helps Lower Risk of Heart Attacks Ann Lukits, The Wall Street Journal May 4, 2015

A research team at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., reviewed 51 studies conducted in North America, Asia and Europe from 2003 to 2013. The studies, from six to 12 months in length, included 24,054 patients assigned to digitalhealth interventions and 10,333 controls who got traditional care without a digital component.

See the article here.

## Electronic Skin Makes Your Body a Computer CNN Staff, CNN Wire May 15, 2015

A patch of gold, just a few centimeters wide and light as a feather, could reveal your innermost thoughts and feelings. This is the premise of Professor John Rogers' Biostamp. By attaching flexible,

miniature sensors to the user's temple, he has been able to track their brain waves in real time and transmit them as messages.

See the article here.

#### Technology Connects Service Members to Psychological Health Help Yolanda R. Arrington, *Armed with Science* May 4, 2015

Everyone is online these days. Uploading photos. Sending short video messages. Sharing what they're having for lunch. But, how do you use technology to get social media to matter in a sea of chatter? Well, there's an app for that!

Service members, veterans and their families have a new way to get social, showcase their strengths and connect to psychological health help. And, it's as easy as tapping their mobile devices.

See the article here.

# T2 Study Finds Deployment Not Linked with Suicide

In the most comprehensive study of its kind, researchers found that data did not show an association between deployment and a higher suicide rate, in contrast to prior smaller studies. Published in *JAMA Psychiatry*, the study examined suicide among the 3.9 million U.S. military personnel who served during OEF or OIF.

The results did find an increased risk of suicide among those who left military service, especially within the first four years or with a less than honorable discharge. Possible reasons might include stresses from transitioning, losing military identity and difficulty finding work.

Read the study here.

## VA in Tests to Make X-Rays, Other Images Available to Veterans Online Bryant Jordan, *Military.com* April 24, 2015

The Veterans Affairs Department is field testing two new programs to give veterans using VA health care electronic access to additional records, including X-rays and MRIs. The images would be available for

download via the "Blue Button" feature on the VA's My HealtheVet website, although the VA also is working on a way for veterans to personally transmit the images to another health care provider, including non-VA doctors, when necessary.

See the article here.





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#### Senate Hearing Urges Faster Progress on Telehealth Development

Jennifer Bresnick, mHealth Intelligence April 22, 2015

Lawmakers and expert witnesses joined together in a Senate brainstorming session addressing how to bring telehealth and greater connectivity to more needy patients across the nation. In a hearing titled

"Advancing Telehealth through Connectivity," Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet gave telehealth advocates the chance to express their ideas about needed improvements for infrastructure development and meaningful deployment of remote care services.

See the article here.

#### How Technology Is Transforming Health Care

Eric Topol, U.S. News April 23, 2015

UCLA neurophysicists have found that space-mapping neurons in the brain react differently to virtual reality than they do to real-world environments. Their findings could be significant for people who use virtual reality for gaming, military, commercial, scientific or other purposes.

See the article here.

## Provider Prescribed mHealth Tools Would be Embraced by Consumers, Report Says Judy Mott, Fierce Mobile Healthcare May 4, 2015

A majority of iTriage users say they would adopt a health monitoring device if it was recommended by a physician, according to a recent

survey by the Aetna company. Seventy-six percent said they are somewhat to very interested in sharing data with providers; ninety two percent currently using a wearable or mHealth app would share data with providers.

See the article here.

#### New Device May Allow Sensations in Prosthetic Hands

University of Washington Staff, Biosocience Technology: People & Applications in Life Science May 15, 2015

To the nearly 2 million people in the United States living with the loss of a limb, including U.S. military veterans, prosthetic devices provide restored

mobility, yet lack sensory feedback. A team of engineers and researchers at Washington University in St. Louis is working to change that so those with upper limb prosthetics can feel hot and cold and the sense of touch through their prosthetic hands.

See the article here.

#### Wearable Technology Vital to Digital Health Industry

Morris Panner, *Physicians News Digest* May 13, 2015

Developments in Health IT are key to a future of seamless interoperability and increased quality of patient care. At the same time, healthcare comes with its share of red tape; it is an industry that is hesitant to change, and at times, for good reason. It may be helpful to look to other rapidly

developing areas of healthcare as an indication of best practices when it comes to health technology.

See the article here.