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Title

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Author

Garza, Nicholas

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Utilization of Telehealth for Inpatient Pediatrics in the Post-COVID Era

Nicholas Garza, MSIV
University of California,
Davis School of Medicine

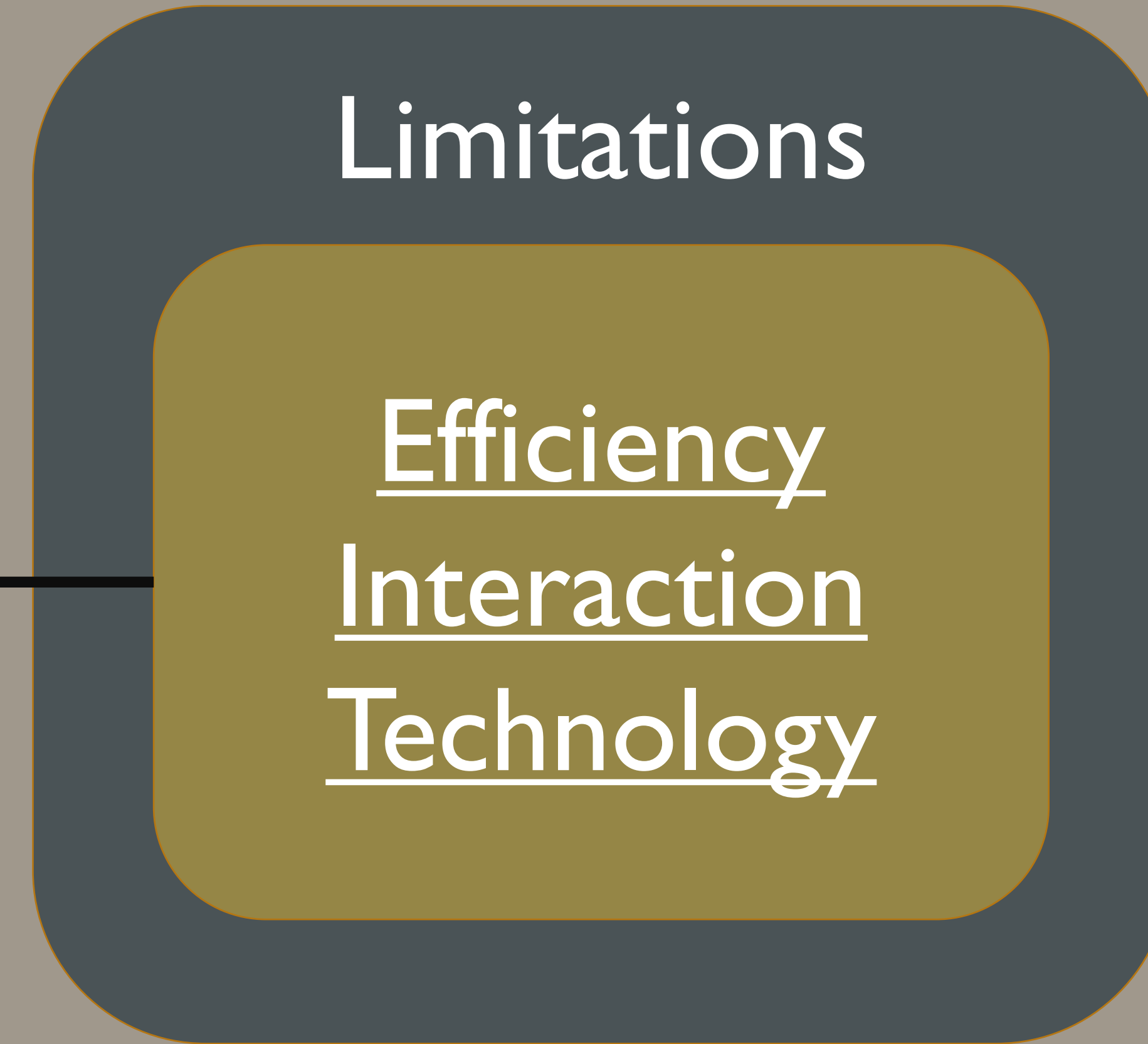
Background

Telehealth has been utilized to provide convenient and effective care in the outpatient setting and emergency consultations for outside hospitals. In the setting of COVID-19 UC Davis Department of Pediatrics rapidly developed and implemented an inpatient telehealth program to support virtual family engagement and provider care while limiting exposure risks. While hospitals rapidly expanded their use of telehealth throughout inpatient care, it remains unknown how the use of inpatient telehealth will continue moving forward post-pandemic.



- Time: Members of the primary team noted increases in time for set up and rounding.
- Rapport: Health providers felt that telehealth did not help establish good rapport with patients unless they were already acquainted
- Trainee Experience: Telehealth was thought to lead to decreased learner engagement for those not in the patient room
- Sound Quality: Sounded quality was sometimes noted as suboptimal
- Connection: Certain areas of the hospital would cause connection issues

- Time: Specialist and health providers that were not part of the primary medicine team thought telemedicine saved time by decreasing travel and the time allocated to conversations not essential to their role
- Consultations: Allowing specialist care that are not readily available on inpatient services
- Outside Hours: Prevents delay in treatment by supervising physician and specialist by making diagnostic and treatment decisions on weekends and after operating hours.
- Learner Autonomy: Encouraged resident and medical students to take a central role in patient care.
- Physical Exam: Allows an exam that sufficient for large pathologies such as rashes and overall well-being of patient.
- Reduce Number of People in Room: Leads to reduction of health exposures and overcrowding patient rooms.



Methods

- We developed an interview guide based on questions that elicited discussions around experiences with inpatient telehealth, future intent of use of telehealth after the COVID 19 pandemic, and strategies to optimize telehealth in the future.

Objective

- The objective of this qualitative study is to understand how inpatient telehealth can be utilized after the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance inpatient care for patients and healthcare providers

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