

## **Week 6: HealthIT Topic of the Week and Impact on Practice**

- What was the HealthIT Topic you selected related to your specialty?
- Why did you select it?
- How will this impact your practice?

Hello Professor and Classmates,

In pursuing the specialty track of family nurse practitioner (FNP), the relevant HealthIT topic I chose to discuss is “physician telehealth” there is approximately 1 and 5 physicians presently using telehealth in taking care of patients and has increased 5% since 2015 with an expected soar in a few short years (Landi, 2019). Telehealth is a tool that provides communication between primary care providers and patients via television. In the HealthIT.gov article “the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines telehealth as the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care” (HealthIT.gov, 2019, p 1). This service is primarily used for those with non-communicable diseases (NCD); such as, heart failure, hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to mention a few. A few NCD medical services are: mobile phones, emails, instant messages, and online video calls are used for the distribution of services and/or communication among medical professionals (Uei, et al., 2017). The most dominant applied telehealth utilized is home tele-monitoring which involves connection of self-monitoring devices for patients in the privacy of their home. This allows the medical team to monitor the patients’ physical, emotional, and/or behavioral indicators as well as communicate the patient’s information to isolated monitoring centers. This data allows healthcare professionals to evaluate patients and enable for rapid medical responses if needed (Uei, et al., 2017). I have chosen this topic because I believe it is relevant to my future profession as an advance nurse practitioner, I will be providing care for many patients daily some of whom will present with non-communicable diseases. It is important to catch these diagnoses, be self-