

Better Care. Lower Costs.

Impacts and Outcomes of Telehealth in Alaska



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

Stewart Ferguson, PhD
Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

“**Telemedicine** is the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve a patient’s clinical health status.”

Source: The American Telemedicine Association (ATA)

*The ATA treats **telemedicine** and **telehealth** as synonyms and uses the terms interchangeably.*



Types of Telemedicine

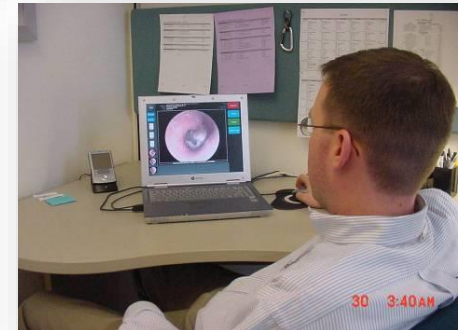
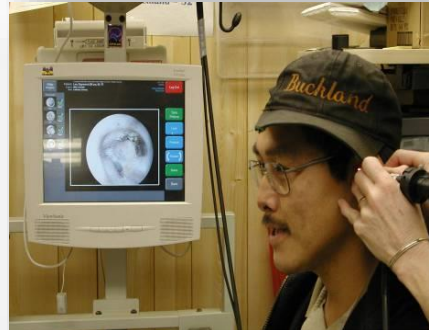
Video-Teleconferencing (VTC)

Synchronous Telemedicine
Video-Based
Live



Store-and-Forward (S&F)

Asynchronous Telemedicine



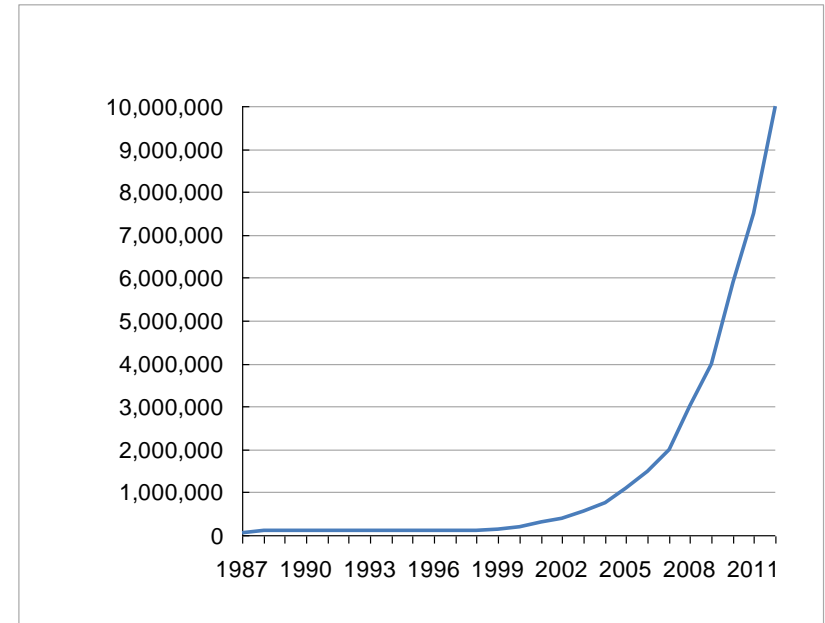
Home Telehealth (HTM)

Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM)
May be Live or S&F or both



How Typical is Telemedicine?

- Currently about 200 telemedicine networks in U.S.
- 3,500 service sites in the U.S.
- Over half of all U.S. hospitals now use some form of telemedicine.



***Patients Served by Telemedicine
in North America***

Source: The American Telemedicine Association (ATA)



Alaska Tribal Health System

Medical Care Service Levels

- Alaska Native Medical Center tertiary care
 - Referrals to private medical providers and other states for complex care
- 6 regional hospitals
- 4 multi-physician health centers
- 25 subregional mid-level care centers
- 180 small community primary care centers



AFHCAN “Store and Forward” Usage

FY15

- **43,000** Telehealth Cases
- **1,500** Providers
- **26,000** Patients

2001-2015

- **265,000** Telehealth Cases
- **4,300** Providers
- **99,000** Patients



Specialty Healthcare Clinics available by VideoTeleconference

- Oncology
 - Cardiology
 - Pediatric Endocrinology
 - Pediatric Speech Language Pathology
 - Adolescent Medicine (care delivered by **Seattle Childrens Hospital**)
 - Breast Cancer Screening (care delivered by **Mayo Clinic**)
 - Endocrinology
 - Pulmonology
 - HIV/Early Intervention Services
 - General Internal Medicine
 - Infectious Disease
 - Neurology
 - Dermatology
 - Emergency Department Services
 - Gastroenterology
 - Hepatitis
 - Nephrology
 - Diabetes
 - Rheumatology
 - ENT
 - OB/GYN
 - Primary Care
- Many others are in development*



Provider Reviews

76% of encounters are rated as improving the quality of care for the patient (n=11,490).

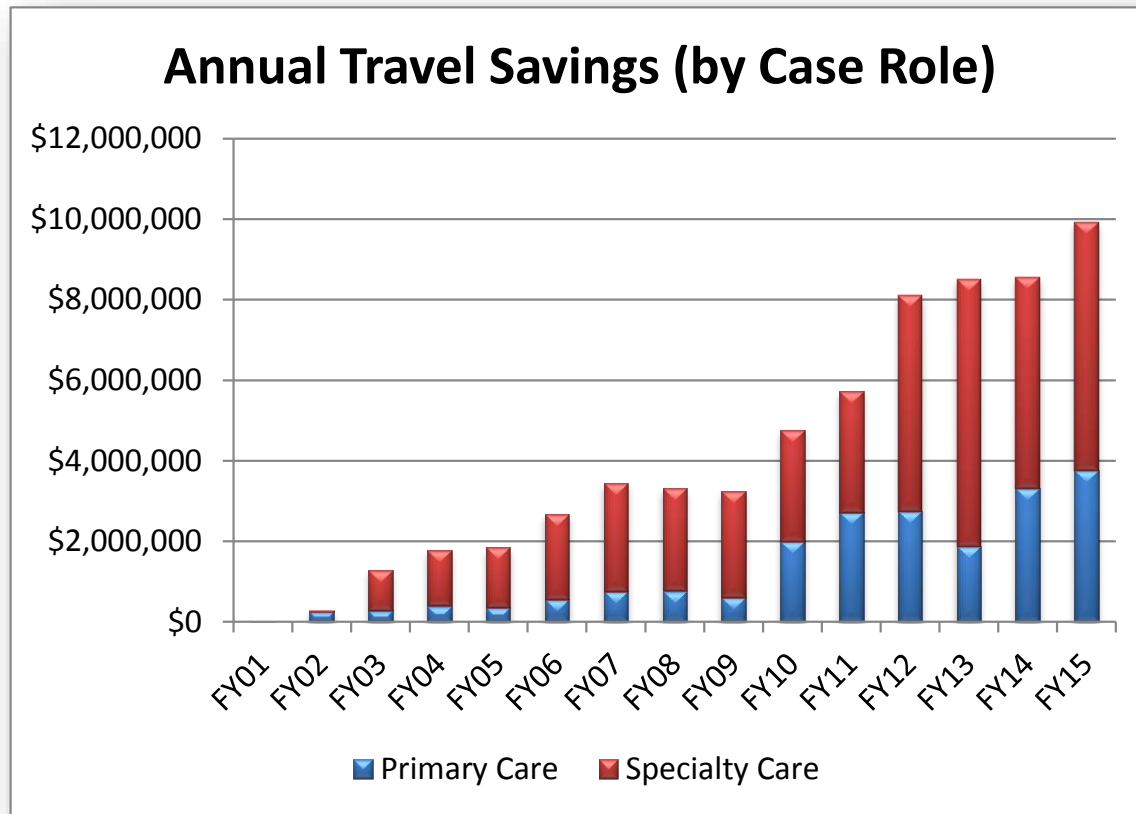
67% of encounters are rated as improving patient satisfaction (n=11,477).

55% of encounters are rated as playing a role in educating the patient (n=12,144).

63% of encounters are rated as making the job more fun (n=12,803).



Estimated Travel Savings from Telehealth for **ALL** Patients

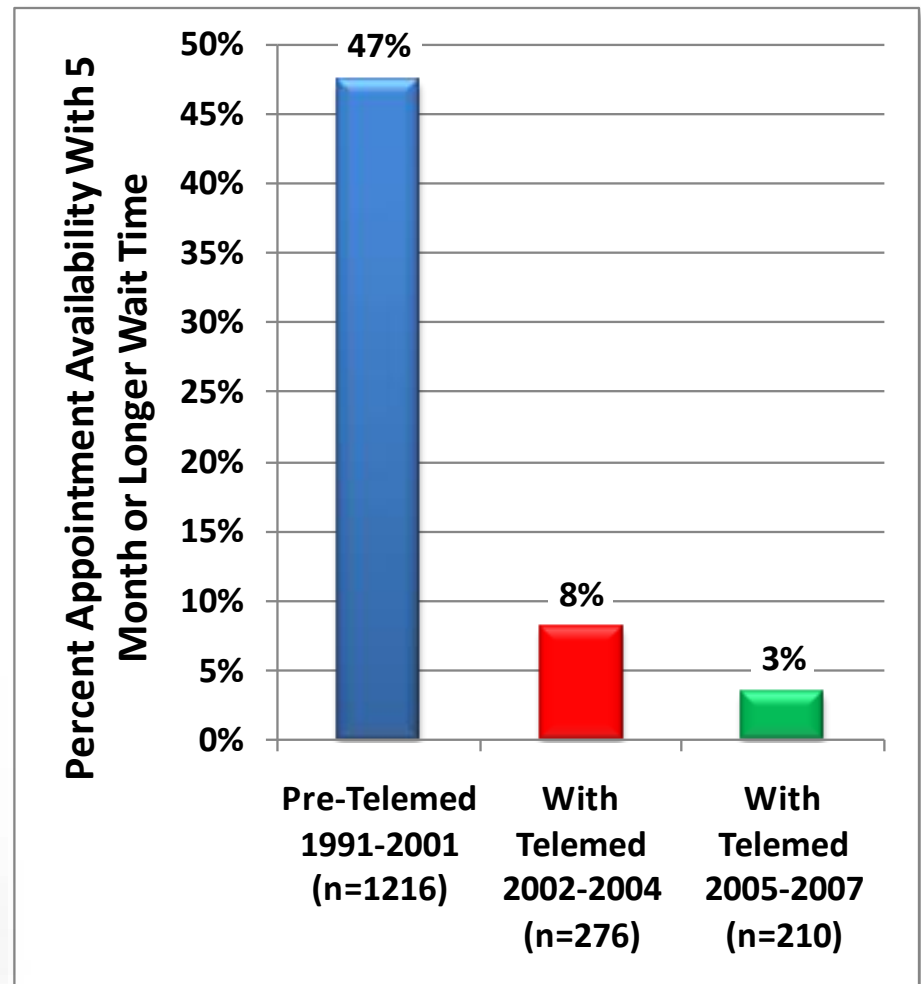
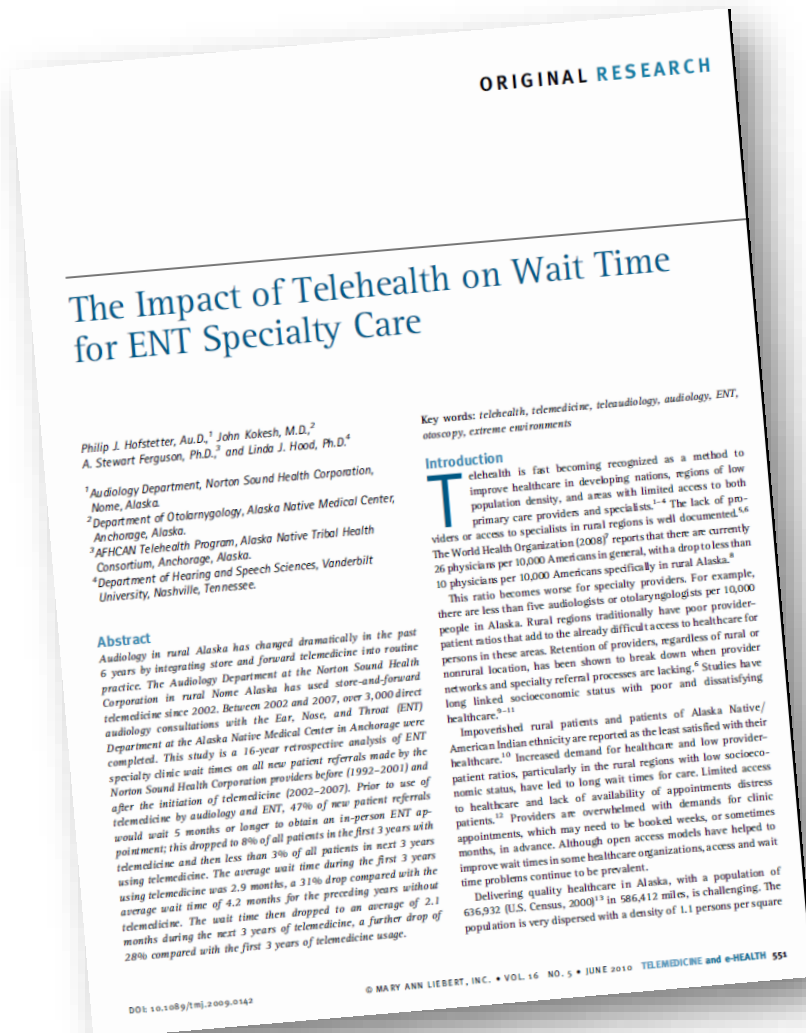


Medicaid now saves an estimated \$10 to \$11 for every \$1 spent on specialty telehealth consultations

Estimated annual savings from telehealth for all patients amounts to about \$10m with a total savings of \$63.4m since 2003.



Telehealth Impact on Extended Waiting Times (> 4 months)



Data courtesy of Phil Hofstetter



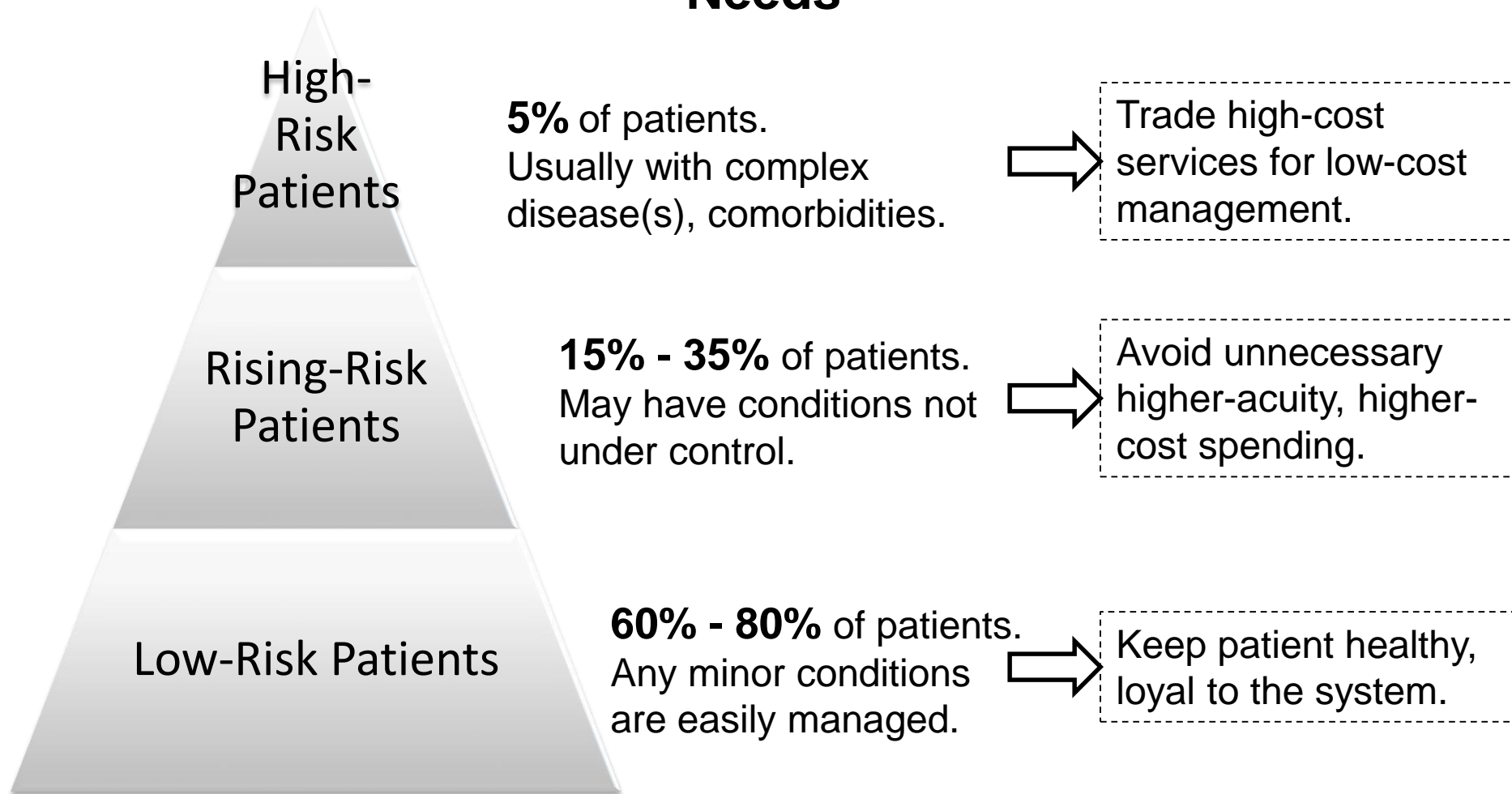
ANMC Turnaround Time

25% of cases are turned around in
60 minutes

60% of cases are turned around in
the same day



Segment Care Management Models Based on Patient Care Needs



Source: Playbook for Population Health, © The Advisory Board Company 2013



Supports Provider Collaboration and Team-Based Care

Maniilaq Association

- Expanding services for Developmentally Disabled
- Piloting elderly care project – 100% Telehealth

Medicaid Tribally Targeted Case Management

- Approved demo projects with complex diabetes patients, cardiac patients, infant learning.

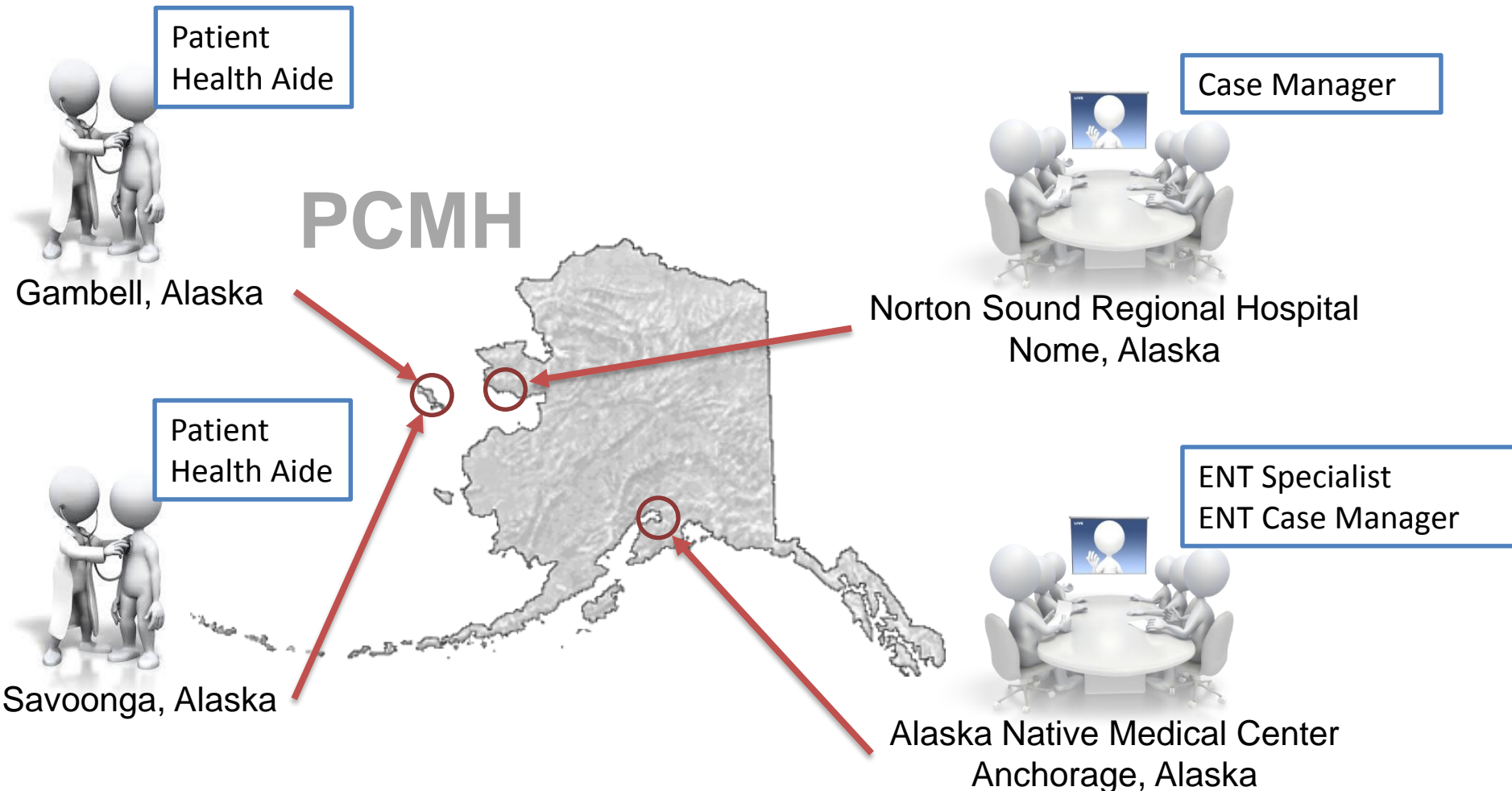
Virtual Field Clinics

- Rheumatology (Provider in Germany)
- ENT

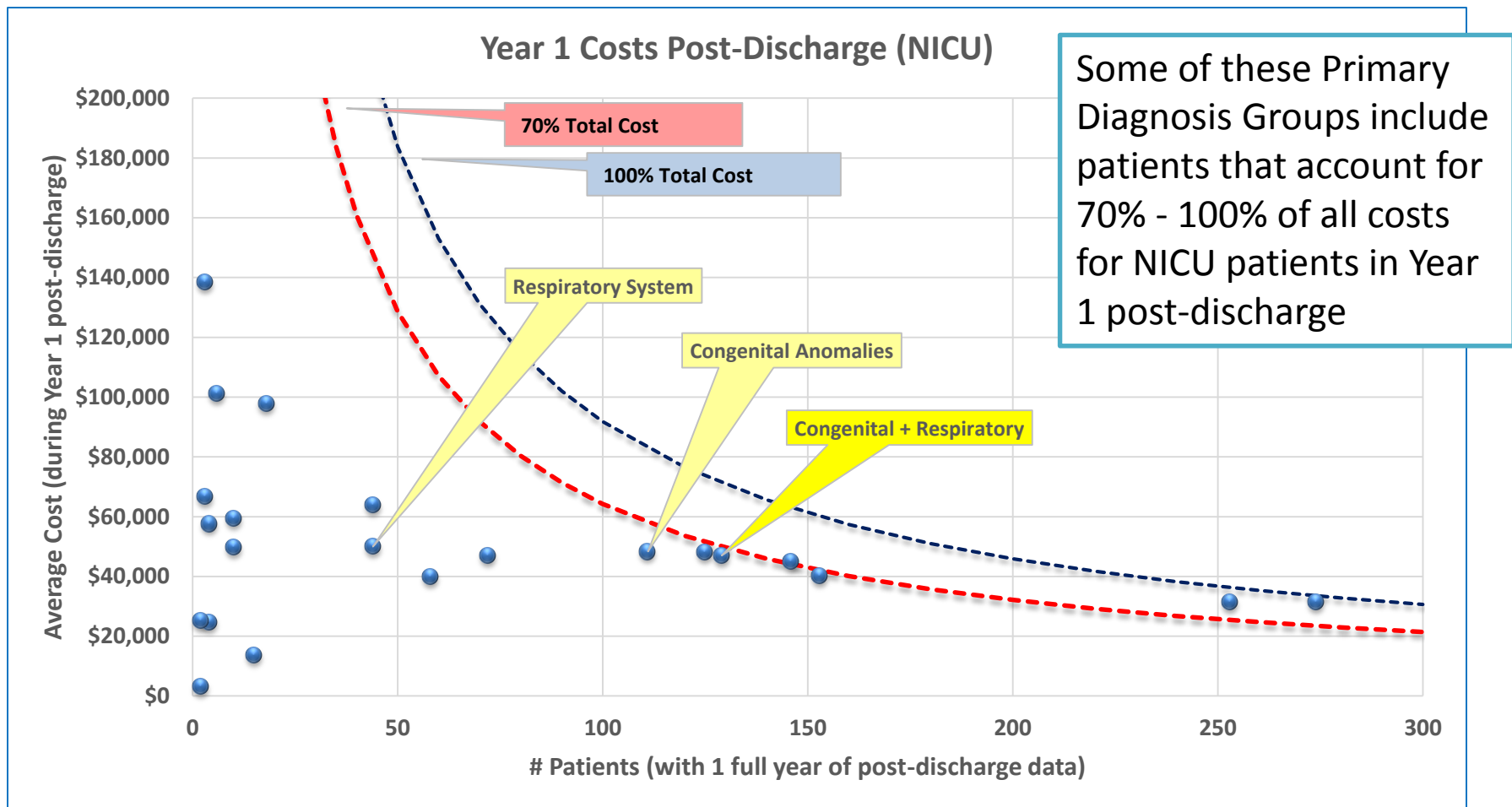
The use of telehealth will play an essential component as part of broad efforts to increase care coordination and integrate behavioral health and primary care.



Supports Provider Collaboration and Team-Based Care: Virtual Field Clinic



Caring for Our Most Expensive – and Most Vulnerable – Infant Population



Care Coordination for the Most Vulnerable Population

We estimate we would save 37% on the cost for care of these patients by:

- ✓ Reducing emergency visits and associated costs by 60%
- ✓ Reducing inpatient hospital admissions and associated costs by 50%
- ✓ Decreasing emergent travel and associated costs by 60%
- ✓ decreasing non-emergent travel and associated costs by 20%

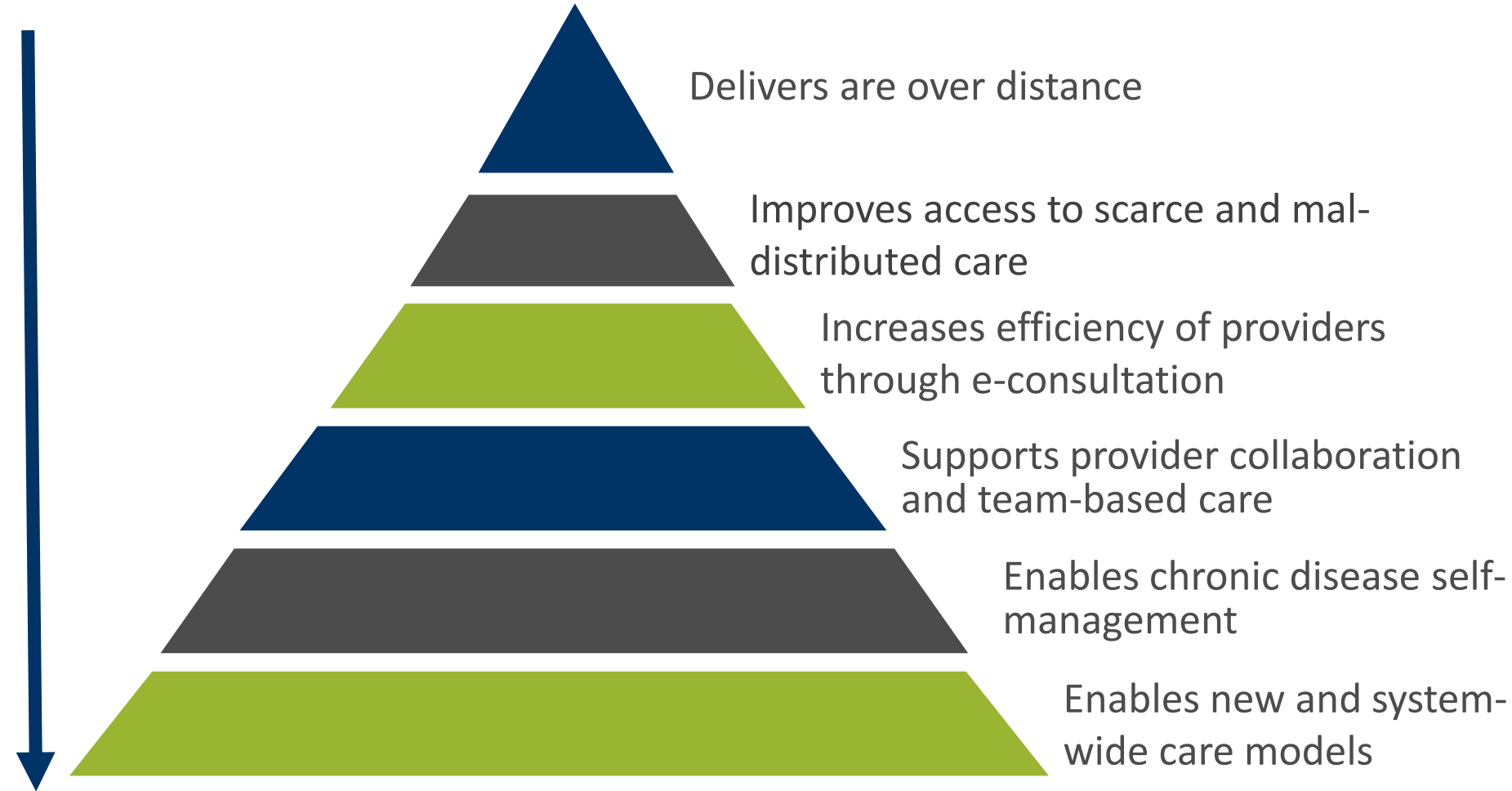
Most importantly – this will improve access to care and improve the overall health of these children



Contribution to Health System Performance

Rural

Access



Urban

Quality & Cost



Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Questions

Stewart Ferguson

sferguson@anthc.org

907-229-3685

