

Script – Broadcast – Making the call on telehealth medicine

INTRO

The COVID-19 pandemic taught the healthcare industry many things when it comes to delivery of care. One of the biggest lessons was the need for telehealth medicine.

Telehealth connects patients to health care services through videoconferencing, remote monitoring, and electronic consultations. And it's becoming more popular for patients and providers. According to the American Hospital Association, 76% of U.S. hospitals connect patients and medical providers using video and other technology.

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Dawn Mosher, assistant professor, Saint Anthony College of Nursing, Rockford, IL.

"We know that telehealth became a necessity during COVID, but even after COVID it was a way that we could increase our access, to give people care and to try to keep them healthier at home. And we really need to make sure that our healthcare professionals are being educated on how to provide care that way." (:22)

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Mosher says telehealth is going to become the norm for providers – some patients will be seen in person and others will be seen over telehealth. And the simulation lab will prepare today's students as they enter the workforce.

The Saint Anthony College of Nursing in Rockford, IL, has added a telehealth simulation laboratory to its curriculum that will help educate nursing students for the future.

The simulation-based training allows students to get firsthand experience with possible healthcare scenarios, with actors playing their patients. The actors are trained in how to respond to the follow-up questions from the students.

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Dawn Mosher, assistant professor, Saint Anthony College of Nursing, Rockford, IL.

"Their confidence will be better when they do these things out in the healthcare field and their knowledge will be better," says Mosher. "And hopefully they'll see that their patients are more satisfied because they'll feel like they're heard and cared for." (:24)

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The scenarios vary. For example, some students complete a mental health follow up appointment for a patient who was hospitalized for depression and later discharged. Other students follow up with a patient admitted for with a seizure or stroke. Professors oversee the sessions and provide feedback.

Students can expect more educational offerings using the telehealth simulation lab. Students at the Saint Anthony College of Nursing will team up with medical and pharmacy students from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford in future sessions.