

# Telemedicine in Prevention and Chronic Disease Management

---

William P. Santamore, PhD,  
Alfred A. Bove, MD, PhD  
Carol Homko, PhD,

Temple University Telemedicine Research Center  
Philadelphia, PA

AHRQ June 3, 2010

# Background

---

- Untreated CVD Risk Factors
- ↑ Utilization Due to Obesity and Aging
- Medical Cost Rapidly Increasing
- More Efficient Medical Delivery Will Not Solve the Problem
- Need a Shift from *Acute Care Model* to a *Prevention Model*
- *Information Technology Needs to be Part of the Answer*

# Background

---

- Heart Failure - NIH
- CVD Risk Reduction - PA
- Gestational Diabetes - NIH
- COPD - PA
- Gastroparesis - NIH
- Obesity – PA
- HTN - AHRQ

# Background

## Shopping - 1989 vs. 2009

1989	2009
Order Catalog	Shop On-line
Review Catalog, Discuss item with Sales Person	See details and read reviews
Sales Person obtains mailing and billing information, places order	Enter mailing and billing information, place order
Sometime later item arrives	Receive noticed that item has been ordered and shipped
	Notified about status of shipment
	Know when item will arrive

# Background

## Starting a new Prescription – 1989 vs. 2009

1989	2009
Call patient	Call Patient
If no answer. Leave detailed message on answering machine	If no answer, leave vague message to call office (HIPAA).
	Try again to connect with Patient
Call Pharmacist with new prescription	Call Pharmacist with new prescription
	Enter transactions in medical record

# What is Telemedicine?

---

- Telemedicine's role is to strengthen the patient-provider relationship by using Today's technology (cell phone, computers, internet, artificial intelligence, measuring devices), thereby improving chronic disease management and prevention in a cost effective manner. → PHR → Nurse Management

# Prevention & Chronic Disease Management

---

- Nothing Like a Nurse!!
- Costs, Costs, Costs!

# Design Philosophy

---

- Costs

  - Hardware

  - Asynchronous Communication

- Strengthen Patient-Provider Relationship

  - Self-Monitoring

  - Education

  - Communication / Feedback with PCP

- Access

  - Easy / Flexibility / Cost



# Cost

Hardware → Device directly Connected to Internet

Authors	Device	# Pts	Duration	Age	Asyn	Who Δ meds	BP Outcome
Artinian 2007	Yes	387	1 Yr	60	No	Doctor	↓ 13.0/6.3 mmHg
Logan 2007	Yes	33	4 mo	48.1	Automatic	Doctor	↓ 10.0/4.0 mmHg
Bobrie 2007	Yes	111	8 wks	59	No	Patient	↓ 9.0/6.0 mmHg
Green 2008	No	778	1 year	59.1	Yes	Pharmacist	↓ 13.2/4.6 mmHg
Rogers 2001	Yes	121	8 wks	61.5	No	Doctor	↓ 4.9/2.0 mmHg
Santamore	No	465	1 Yr	60.7	No	Doctor	↓ 18.1/7.1 mmHg

BP Telemedicine Studies

# BP Accuracy Study Design

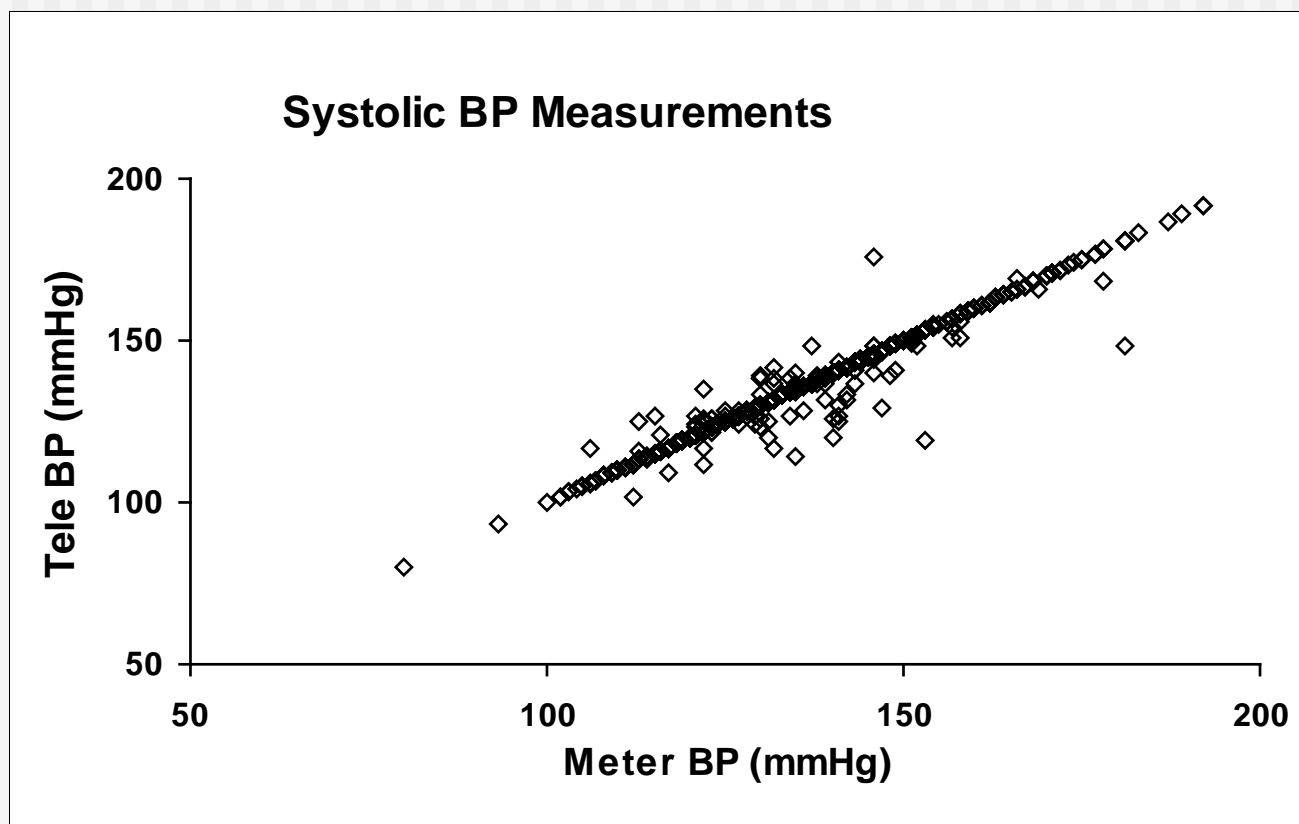
## CVD Risk Reduction Study

---

- Hypothesis – Telemedicine Subjects will accurately transmit their BP values
- 465 Pts with moderate risk of CVD.
- Randomized to Standard Care or Telemedicine, given BP meters with memory
- Followed for 1 year
- Primary Outcome – BP values;

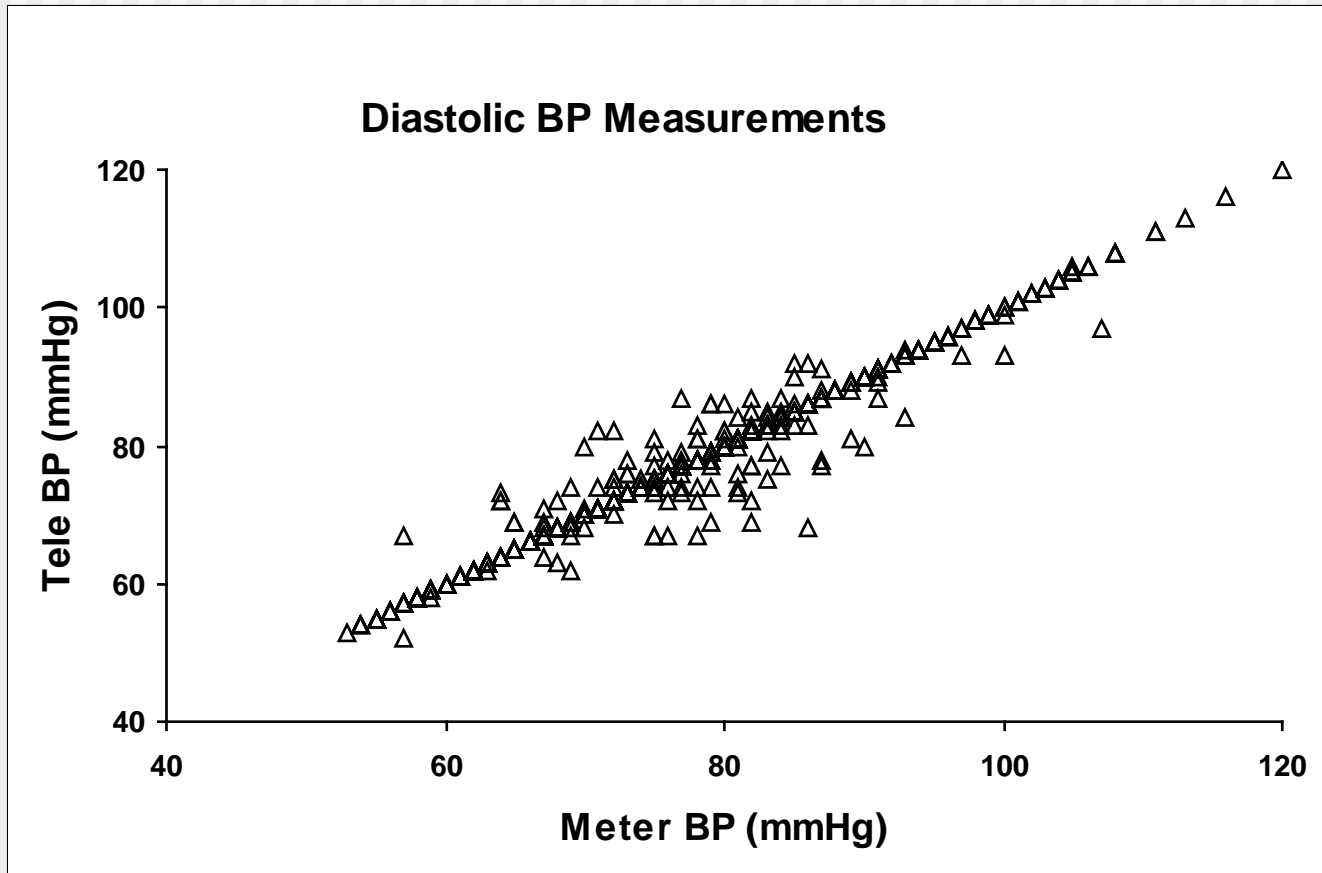
Meter vs. Telemedicine

# BP Accuracy Study



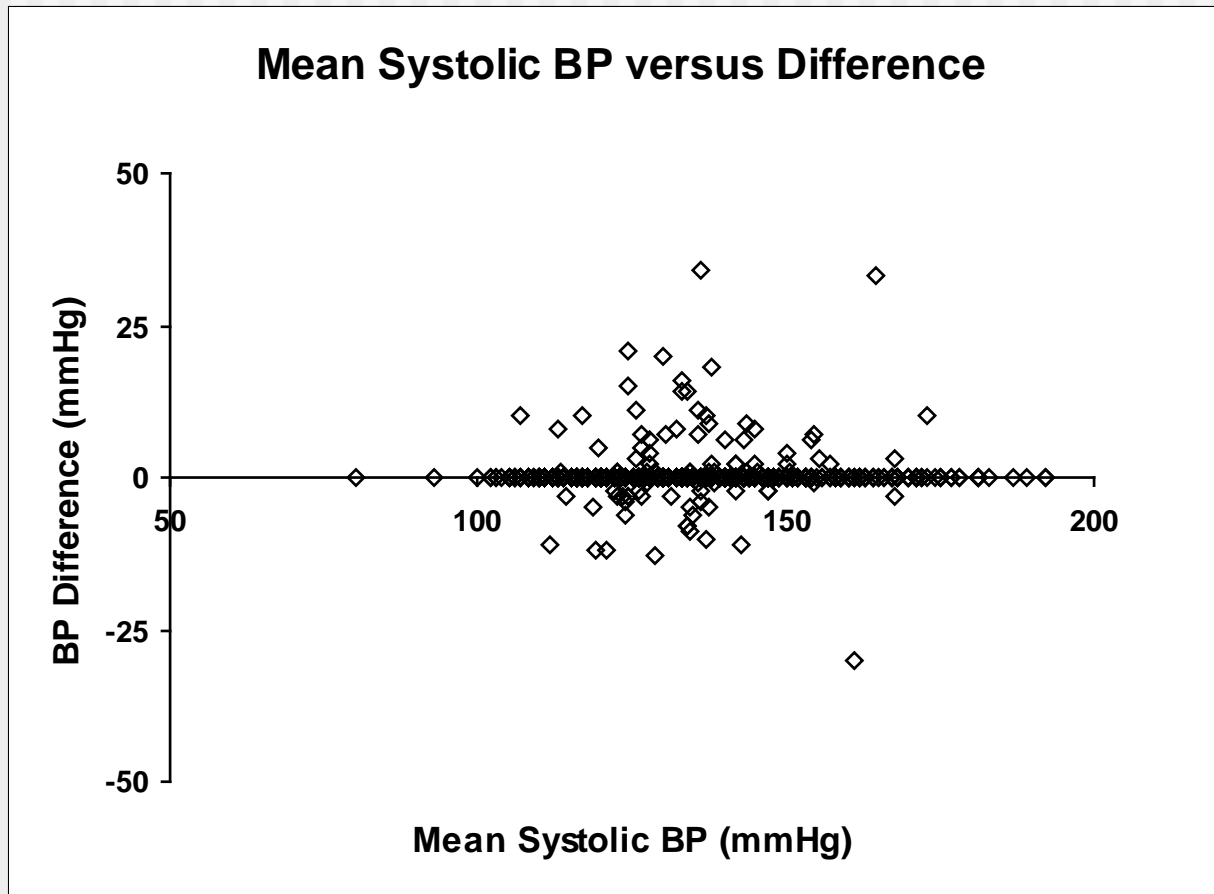
Tele BP  $133.4 \pm 11.1$  vs. Meter BP  $136.4 \pm 11.9$  mmHg

# BP Accuracy Study



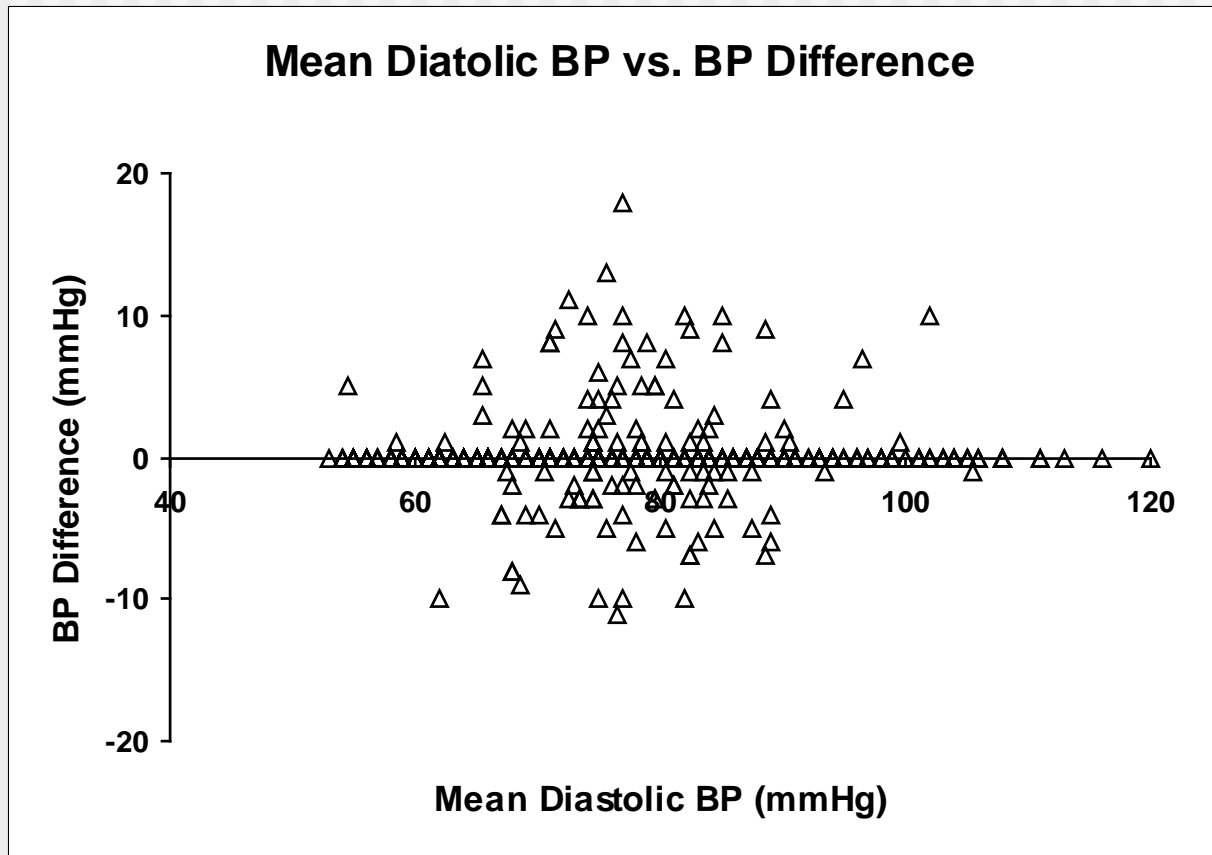
Tele BP  $77.5 \pm 6.8$  vs. Meter BP  $79.7 \pm 7.5$  mmHg

# BP Accuracy Study



Percent Error =  $-0.02 \pm 0.04\%$

# BP Accuracy Study



Percent Error =  $-0.032 \pm 0.04\%$

# Cost

## Is Hardware Needed?

---

- Device that directly transmits BP is more accurate than patient entering BP values
- But, only small patient errors
- Clinical studies show comparable Outcomes
- For large populations, hardware costs are excessive

# Cost

## Nurse's Time - Asynchronous

Authors	Device	# Pts	Duration	Age	Asyn	Who $\Delta$ meds	BP Outcome
Artinian 2007	Yes	387	1 Yr	60	No	Doctor	↓ 13.0/6.3 mmHg
Logan 2007	Yes	33	4 mo	48.1	Automatic	Doctor	↓ 10.0/4.0 mmHg
Bobrie 2007	Yes	111	8 wks	59	No	Patient	↓ 9.0/6.0 mmHg
Green 2008	No	778	1 year	59.1	Yes	Pharmacist	↓ 13.2/4.6 mmHg
Rogers 2001	Yes	121	8 wks	61.5	No	Doctor	↓ 4.9/2.0 mmHg
Santamore	No	465	1 Yr	60.7	No	Doctor	↓ 18.1/7.1 mmHg





# Heart Failure Study Design

---

- Hypothesis – A Telemedicine System ↓hospitalization
- 48 Pts with Class II, III or IV HF & Hospitalization within 6 months, computer with Internet access.
- Randomized to Standard Care or Telemedicine
- Followed for 1 year
- Primary Outcome - Hospital Days

# Communication

## Internet Messages – Telephone Calls

	Total	#/week	Ave/pt/wk
Patient messages	1887	36	1.5
Text+ data	721	14	0.6
Dataonly	1166	22	0.9
Provider messages	1887	36	1.5
Genericmessage	1250	24	1.0
Tailoredmessage	637	12	0.5

Telephone Calls: Controls 8 calls/year/pt; Tele – 6 calls/yr/pt

# 1-Year Outcomes

---

	Control (n=24)	Telemedicine (n=24)
ED visits	12	5*
Hospitalizations	40	24*
Hospital Days	226	84*

\* P < 0.025

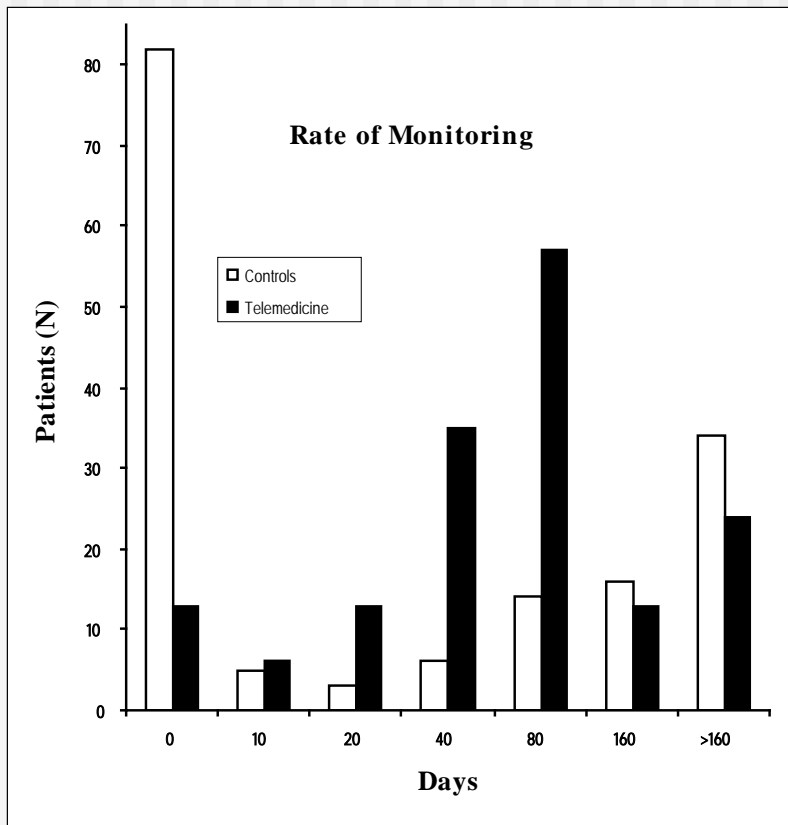
# Cost

## Nurse's Time - Asynchronous

---

- Asynchronous Communication is more Efficient
- BP Outcomes are Similar
- HF Outcomes Improved
- Who Pays for Nurse to Respond to Patient
- Automated Systems Show Promise

# Self-Monitoring Telemedicine Usage



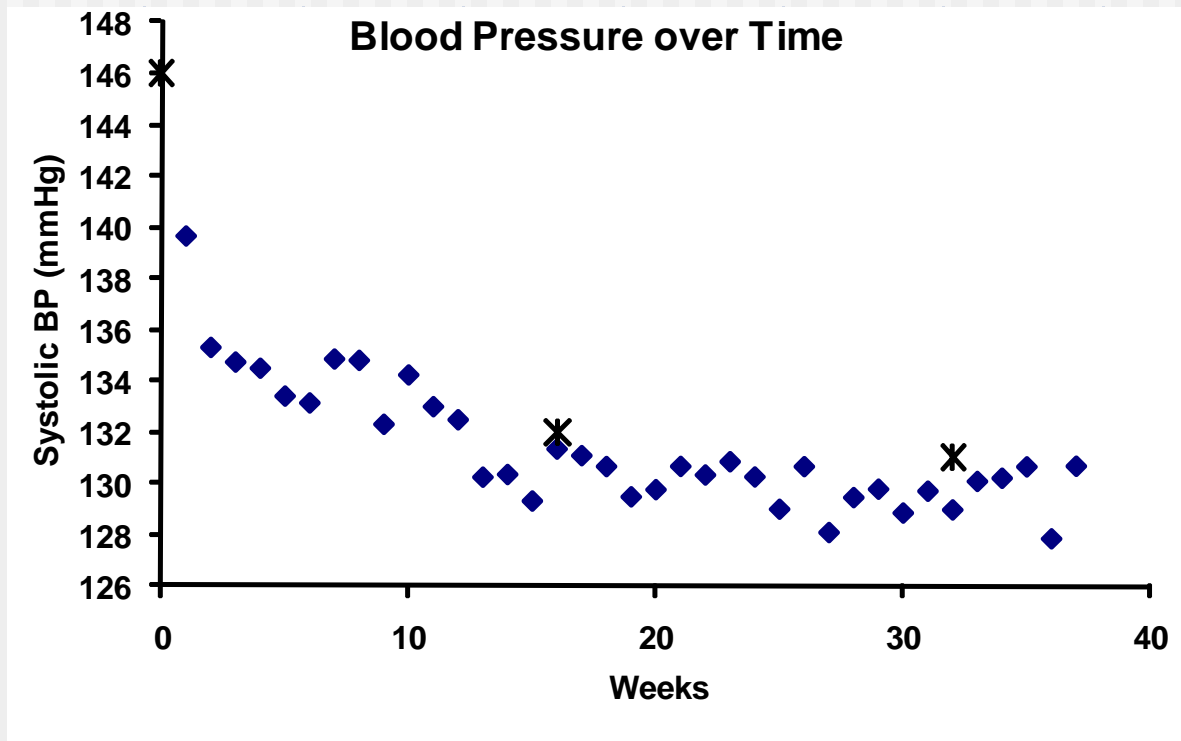
CVD Risk Reduction Study; 465 Pts with moderate risk of CVD; Randomized to Standard Care or Telemedicine, given BP meters with memory  
Followed for 1 year

**Telemedicine**

**Non-Monitors → Monitors**

**Self-Monitoring Documented**

# Self-Monitoring Blood Pressure over Time



- Rapid Decrease in BP
- Home BP values lower than office

# Education

## Telemedicine Screens

---

### ■ Patient

■ Input Data (messages)

■ Medications

■ Lab Data

■ Review

■ Education

### Doctor

Pt Review

Medications

Lab Data

Scheduler

User Log

# Education

## Telemedicine Screens

---

- Out of 196 Patients, only 2% access Educational Screens
- Take Home Message → Push Education



# Feedback to Practice

**“Your patient has been provided with a copy.”**

**Framingham CVD Risk Score: 12%**

Blood Pressure (mmHg) <b>167/86*</b>	Weight (lbs) 137
Pulse (beats/min) <b>102*</b>	Body Mass Index 25.1
SpO2 (%) 98	6 minute walk test (ft) 936
	Cigarettes per Day 0
Fasting Blood glucose (mg/dl) <b>324*</b>	Total Cholesterol (mg/dl) <b>267*</b>
	HDL (mg/dl) <b>40*</b>
Hbg A1c (%) <b>12.9*</b>	LDL (mg/dl) <b>130*</b>
	Triglycerides (mg/dl) <b>486*</b>
Urine microalbumin (mg/L) <b>30.1*</b>	
Urine microalbumin/creatinine ratio (mg/g) <b>80*</b>	

# Feedback to Practice



## MONTHLY REPORT ON HYPERTENSION-TELEMEDICINE STUDY

Date \_\_\_\_\_

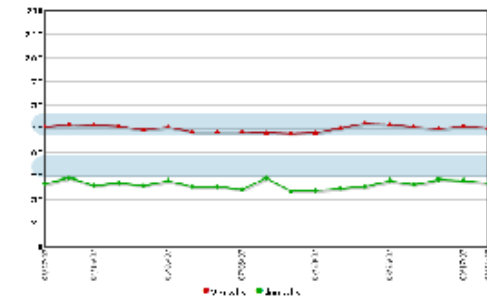
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Physician \_\_\_\_\_

Your blood pressure readings are shown on the graph below. Note that readings should be within or below the blue bands to be considered normal.

*[this graph will be timed for the 6 months study and will "grow" to the right as new measures are added\_FB]*

### TRENDS

08/26/2017 to 09/30/2017



Your current medications are: \_\_\_\_\_

Your blood pressure is at goal, continue your medications as prescribed. *[message 1]*

If your blood pressure is not at goal, based on your clinical status, we would recommend addition of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ to bring your blood pressure down to normal values. *[message 2]*

# Feedback to Practice

---

- From CVD Risk Reduction Study, Reports faxed to the PCP  
52% of Pts took the report to their office visit  
75% Discussed their values with their PCP
- From current HTN Study, Reports faxed to PCP  
One institution misplaced 14 reports
- Faxing works!
- But direct transfer to EMRs would be better

# Feedback to Practice

## Medication Adherence

---

	<b>\$4</b>	<b>\$10</b>
	<b>30-Day</b>	<b>90-Day</b>

- **Cholesterol**

Lovastatin 20mg tab. . . . .	30. . . . .	90
------------------------------	-------------	----

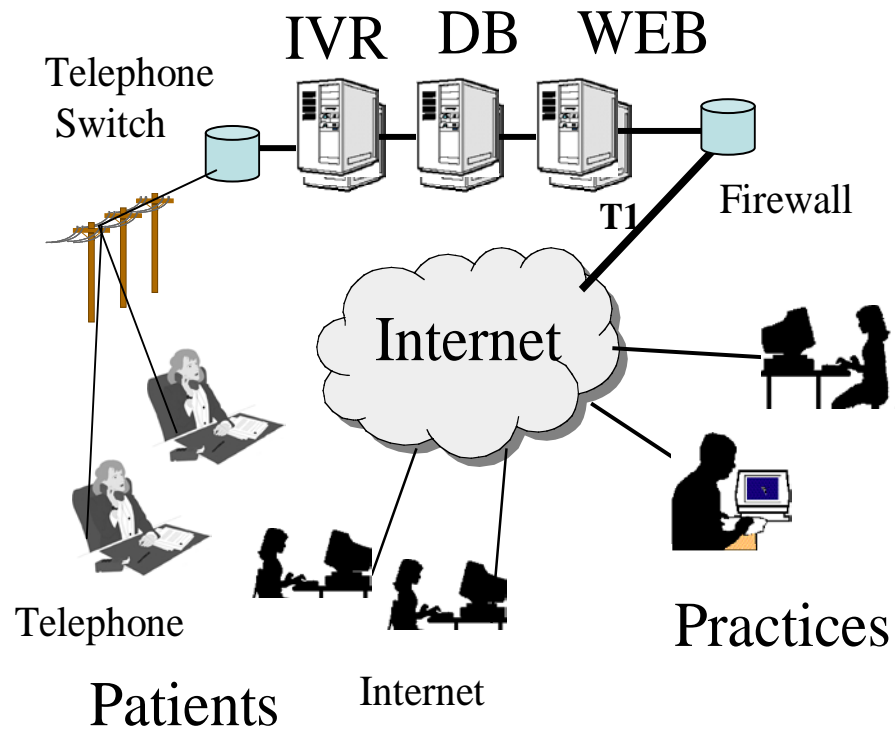
Pravastatin 40mg tab . . . . .	30. . . . .	90
--------------------------------	-------------	----

- **Blood Pressure**

Amiloride-HCTZ 5mg-50mg . . . .	30. . . . .	90
---------------------------------	-------------	----

Enalapril-HCTZ 5mg-12.5mg. . .	30. . . . .	90
--------------------------------	-------------	----

# Access



# Access

## Ease / Flexibility / Cost

---

52% have incomes <\$25,000/Yr

- Averaging Over 2 Transmission / Week
- 61% Using Telephone Access
- Flexibility → Needed,  
But Hard to Address in a Research Study

# Design Philosophy

---

- Costs

Hardware ?

- ✓ Asynchronous Communication – Automated Messages!

- Strengthen Patient-Provider Relationship

- ✓ Self-Monitoring – Effective, Documented

Education? - Push Educational Messages

- ✓ Communication / Feedback with PCP – Fax?, EMR!

- Access

Easy / Flexibility / Cost? – Needed and Hard!

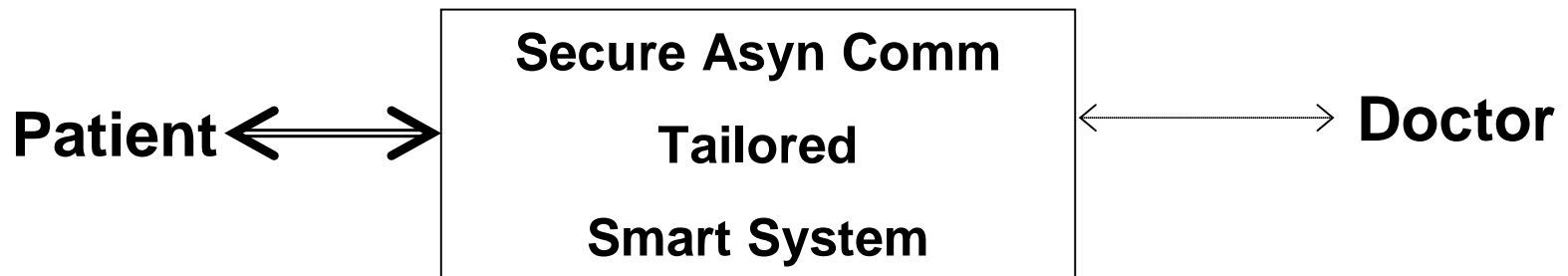
# Always Behind Technology Curve

---

- Facebook
- Mark Zuckerberg – Oct 28, 2003
- 400 million members
- 61 PubMed References
  
- Text Messaging
- ???? People Texting
- 147 PubMed References



# Planned Updates



- **Guidelines**
- **Automated Reminders to Patients**
- **Automated Review of Data**
- **Built-in Intelligence**
- **Tailored Messages to Patient**

# Tailored Messages

---

- Automated Tailored Messages to Patient
  - ✓ Know gender, age, medical condition, insurance coverage, etc.
  - ✓ Monitoring status – at goal, not at goal, not monitoring
  - ✓ Behavioral Mining (Click Stream Mining)
- Dynamic Tailoring of Messages

# Temple Telemedicine Research Center

---

**Thank You**

**[Williamsantamore@hotmail.com](mailto:Williamsantamore@hotmail.com)**