Agenda

- About the FCC and Role in Healthcare
- Director of Healthcare Initiatives
- Select FCC Healthcare Initiatives
  - Rural Healthcare Program
  - Lifeline
  - mHealth
- Opportunities for Collaboration

Federal Communications Commission

Mission

The FCC was established by the Communications Act of 1934 and is charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable. The FCC's jurisdiction covers the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. possessions.

Staff & Offices

- Approx. 1700 Attorneys, Engineers, Economists, et al
- HQ at 445 12th St, SW, Wash., DC
- Lab in Columbia, MD
- Field Offices: 3 Regional, 16 District, 8 Resident Agent

www.fcc.gov

The Promise of Broadband-Enabled Health Technology

Expanding connectivity for health technology can:

•**Increase access to health care** and medical expertise, especially in hard to serve areas

  – Telemedicine and video conferencing allow rural health care providers to take advantage of specialists, training, and resources in urban centers

•**Improve patient care** by utilizing data to improve health care strategies

  – Patients who used a mobile tracking system for diabetes care received regular, tailored self-care messages and were able to achieve significant reduction in blood sugar levels over a year long study

•**Reduce health care costs** by using information to improve efficiency of care delivery

  – Telehealth can reduce the costs of medical care among the elderly by 25%, because it reduces the number of face to-face consultations needed

  – Costs related to data collection can be reduced by allowing patients and doctors to access health records remotely, increase efficiency, avoid duplication, and save between 20% and 30% in administrative costs

FCC Areas of Responsibility

- **Rural Health Care Program:** Supports broadband for health care providers, which promotes telemedicine adoption to expand patient access to specialists and drive down costs.

- **Broadband**: Advances both wireline and wireless communications services and technologies, thus enabling many medical and medical-associated applications.

- **Spectrum**: Provides access to the airwaves for wireless medical devices and various radio services that support Health IT applications, while preventing harmful interference.

- **National Broadband Plan**: Engages in a variety of actions and activities to facilitate Health IT under NBP recommendations.

As a platform for innovation and information exchange, broadband can help improve health outcomes and lower the cost of care

1 Create incentives for broader health IT adoption and innovation

2 Modernize regulations to increase access to care and enable health IT adoption

3 Drive innovative applications and advanced analytics

4 Ensure all providers have access to affordable broadband

- Increase e-care pilots that evaluate cost savings & clinical **outcomes**

- Expand reimbursement for e-care under current fee-for-service model where **outcomes are proven**

- Provide Congress with a plan to realize the value of e-care

- Revise credentialing, privileging and state **licensing requirements** to enable e-care

- Clarify regulatory requirements and the **approval process for** converged communications and healthcare devices

- Create next-generation interoperability across **clinical, research and administrative data**

- Ensure patients have access to and control **over their health data**

- Transform the Rural Health Care Program
  - **Subsidize ongoing costs**
  - Subsidize network deployment
  - Expand eligibility
  - Require institutions to **meet outcomes-based** measures

- Upgrade Indian Health Service broadband service

- Track and publish progress on broadband connectivity in healthcare facilities

Director of Healthcare Initiatives

- A new position to coordinate the FCC's numerous initiatives related to expanding access to healthcare applications through wired and wireless broadband

- Lead the agency's efforts in promoting communications technologies and services that:

  - Improve the quality of health care for all citizens and help reduce health care costs;

  - Facilitating the availability of medical devices that use spectrum;

  - Ensuring hospitals and other health care facilities have required connectivity

- Collaboration, coordination, communication

New Healthcare Connect Fund

- In December 2012, the Commission reformed and streamlined the health care universal service support program, creating a new, efficient Healthcare Connect Fund.

- Healthcare Connect will expand health care provider access to broadband, especially in rural areas, and encourage the creation of state and regional broadband health care networks.

- Healthcare Connect builds on success of Pilot Program networks:
    - Large medical centers shared expertise with rural providers.
    - Telemedicine and electronic health record exchange improved quality and reduced cost of care.

Key Features of New Healthcare Connect Fund

- Support for broadband connectivity and broadband networks for eligible health care providers (HCPs)

- Both consortium and individual HCPs may apply

- 35% HCP contribution required

- Funding begins January 1, 2014 (July 1, 2013, for existing Pilot projects)

- Covers both broadband services and HCP-owned infrastructure

- Non-rural HCPs can participate if in majority-rural consortia

- Multi-year funding commitments available to consortia

- Connections to off-site administrative offices and data centers covered

Benefits of Consortium Approach

- Creation and growth of broadband HCP networks

- Lower administrative costs

- Sharing of medical, administrative, and technical expertise

- Lower prices, higher bandwidth, and better quality connections

- Access by rural HCPs to medical specialists at larger HCPs through telemedicine

- Enhanced exchange of electronic health records and coordination of patient care

- Remote training of medical personnel

- Improved quality and lower cost of health care

Who is eligible to participate?

- To be eligible, an HCP must be public or not-for-profit and belong to one of these statutory categories: hospitals, rural health clinics, community health centers, health centers serving migrants, community mental health centers, local health departments or agencies, post-secondary educational institutions/teaching hospitals/medical schools, or a consortia of the above. 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(7)(B)

- Non-rural HCPs may participate in Healthcare Connect Fund if they belong to a consortium that has a majority rural HCPs

- The largest HCPs (400 + patient beds) are eligible, but support is capped if non-rural.

What is supported?

- For all applicants:
  - Broadband services
  - Reasonable and customary installation charges
  - Equipment necessary to make service functional
  - Connections to off-site administrative offices and data centers
  - Connections to research & education networks

- Consortium applicants also may receive support for:
  - Equipment necessary for network
  - Upfront charges for deployment of new or upgraded facilities, including dark fiber HCP constructed and owned facilities, if shown to be most cost-effective option

- FCC has rich data resources
- Released map of FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program at HDP
  - Green and Red triangles depict entities that are health care providers supported by the Pilot Program
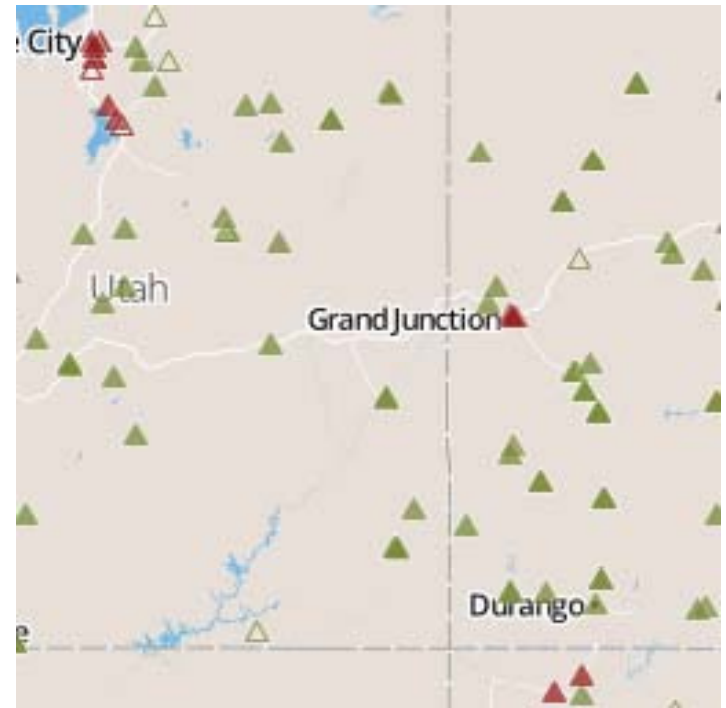
FCC's Lifeline Program

- Provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers (one per household, either a landline or wireless service)
  - **To participate in the Lifeline program, consumers can:**
  - **participate in Medicaid**
  - have an income that is at or below 135% of Fed Poverty
  - participate in other programs (SNAP, SSI, TANF, etc.)

- Exciting opportunities for aligning Lifeline with Medicaid (and Medicare) initiatives aimed at improving health and healthcare.
  - Some Lifeline wireless service providers have begun contracting with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to enroll MMCO beneficiaries in Lifeline and health management services

Medicaid plans in 20 states roll out Voxiva SMS health services

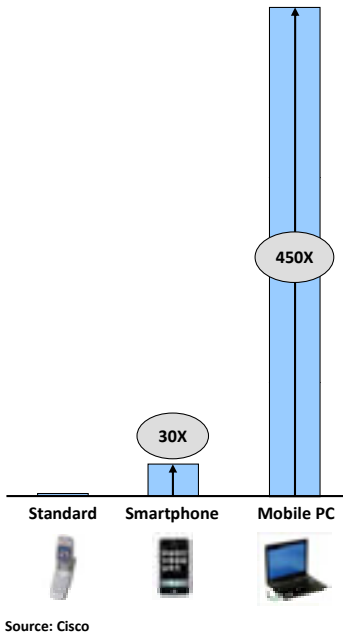http://mobihealthnews.com/23351/medicaid-plans-in-20-states-roll-out-voxiva-sms-health-services/

- Medicaid health plans in more than 20 states are rolling out mobile health services thanks to a new partnership between mobile health company Voxiva and mobile operator TracFone Wireless. The partnership will see the launch of SafeLink Health Solutions. The program is something of an offshoot of the federal Lifeline mobile phone program, which can trace its roots to a Reagan-era landline phone program, but is sometimes referred to as "Obamaphones" by critics.

- SafeLink Health Solutions aims to help Medicaid health plans help members take a more active role in their health, increase member satisfaction, increase re-enrollment rates, and improve quality measures. SafeLink Health will equip members with a free mobile phone, free monthly service with 250 calling minutes and unlimited minutes to designated member services numbers. The program also includes free enrollment to Voxiva's text message-based health services and unlimited text messaging.

- Voxiva's services include reminders for exams, screenings, vaccinations, and more via SMS

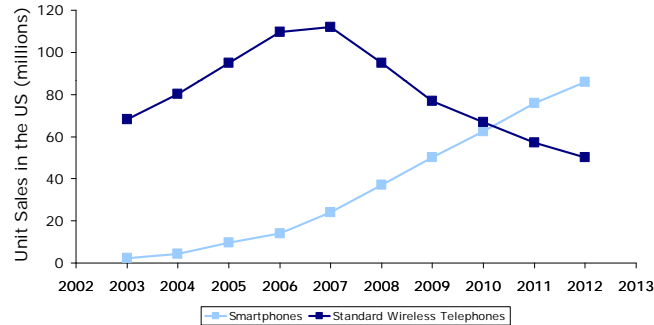| Medicaid MCO	Lifeline ETC (Wireless Phone Carrier)	Health App(s)

Why it matters for health care: Spectrum is the "oxygen" that wireless broadband needs to thrive
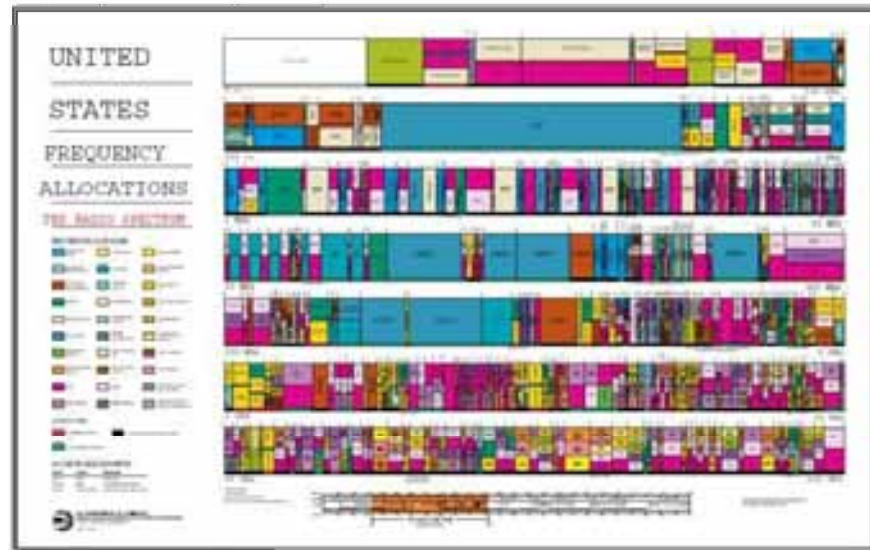
Hungry Devices

450X

30X

Standard **Smartphone** **Mobile PC**

Source: Cisco

Smartphone sales to overtake standard phones by 2011

Unit Sales in the US (millions)

120
100
80
60
40
20
0

2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

Smartphones — Standard Wireless Telephones

Source: TIA, Wilkofsky Gruen Associates from "TIA's 2009 ICT Market Review and Forecast".

Consumer Apps

National Purposes

Civic Engagement

Telemedicine

Public Safety

Smart Grid

UNITED STATES FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS
THE RADIO SPECTRUM

Wireless Medical Devices and Applications are Emerging

Federal Communications Commission

Source: AirStrip Technologies, Intel, Medtronic, CardioNet, Corventis
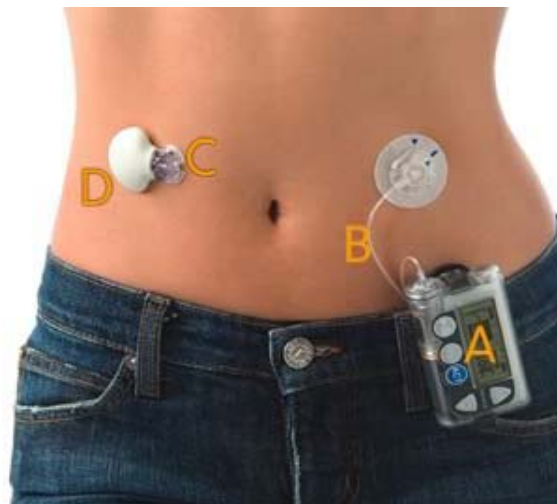
mHealth Task Force

- Task Force sparked via FCC held mHealth Summit (June 2012) bringing together academia, industry, and government to accelerate adoption of wireless health technologies.
  - Participants included senior executives and leaders from health technology companies, including established companies, startups, non-profits, hospital leaders, and government experts from the FCC, FDA, HHS, VA, CMS, and NIH.
  - The Co-chairs of this working group were Julian Goldman from Partners HealthCare, Robert Jarrin from Qualcomm, and Douglas Trauner from Health Analytic Services.

- In September 2012, the mHealth Task Force released its report and recommendations to the public.
  - The Report set the following five year goal: **For mHealth technology to become a routine medical best practice within five years.**

mHealth Task Force

- In just four months, the FCC has taken action on 85% of the mHealth Task Force recommendations, including:

  ❑ Enable wireless test beds

  ❑ Create the Health Care Connect Fund

  ❑ Broadband Adoption Lifeline Pilot

  ❑ Promote international spectrum usage for MBANs

  ❑ Enhance FCC coordination with CMS

  ❑ Hired Director of Health Care Initiatives

  ❑ Improve interagency alignment, data sharing, and cooperation

  ❑ Launch FCC.gov/health

Other Recent FCC Actions

- **Medical Device Radiocommunications Service (MedRadio), March 2009:** New service by expanding previous provisions for medical implant communications service.

- **Medical Micropower Networks (MMNs), November 2011:** Adopted rules to enable a new generation of wireless medical devices that can be used to restore functions to paralyzed limbs. MMNs are ultra-low power wideband networks consisting of transmitters implanted in the body that take the place of damaged nerves, restoring sensation and mobility.

Other Recent FCC Actions

- **Retinal Implants, November 2011:** OET granted a waiver to Second Sight Medical Products, Inc. of Section 15.209(a) of the Commission's rules to allow it to obtain FCC certification for and market its Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System which is a medical implant system designed to treat profoundly blind people.

- **Medical Body Area Networks (MBANs), May 2012:** Order to allocate spectrum for Medical Body Area Networks, making the U.S. the first country in the world to make spectrum available for this specific usage. MBANs are networks of wireless sensors which transmit data on a patient's vital health indicators to their doctor or hospital.

- **Experimental Licensing Order, January 2013:** Order to promote expanded opportunities for radio experimentation and market trials, including for medical devices

- **Spectrum for Wireless Broadband:** Focused on providing additional spectrum for commercial wireless broadband networks. Accommodates innovation and growth in mHealth devices and applications.

Questions?

For more information:

- Healthcare Connect Fund order, at
  http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-12-150A1.doc

- FCC website, http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/rural-health-care

- Healthcare Connect Fund FAQs,
  http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/healthcare-connect-fund-frequently-asked-questions

- USAC website, www.usac.org/rhc

- Pilot Program map, http://www.fcc.gov/maps/rural-health-care-pilot-program

- Pilot Program Staff Evaluation,
  http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-1332A1.pdf

- Questions: rhc-assist@usac.org

Thank You!

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