



ANA CORE PRINCIPLES ON CONNECTED HEALTH

The American Nurses Association (ANA) *Core Principles on Connected Health* (Principles) is a guide for health care professionals who use connected health technologies to provide quality care.

These Principles are an update to the 1998 *ANA Core Principles on Telehealth*, which were developed through an interdisciplinary work group to help guide health care professions developing policy in the telehealth arena. For the latest iteration, the ANA Professional Issues Panel (Panel) leveraged a working definition of Connected Health (see below) to revise the Principles and reflect the current lens and transformation of health care. This definition is not an endorsement of ANA.

Partners Healthcare definition of Connected Health: There is a growing body of literature demonstrating that connected health technologies can make health care more effective and efficient by electronically connecting clinicians to clinicians, patients to clinicians, and even patients to other patients. This approach facilitates remote diagnosis and treatment, continuous monitoring and adjustment of therapies, support for patient self-care, and the leveraging of providers across large populations of patients ([Partners Healthcare](#))

Principle 1

The use of connected health technologies does not alter the standards of professional practice when delivering healthcare, conducting research, or providing education. Developed by each profession, in this case nursing, these standards focus on the healthcare professional's responsibility to provide lawful, evidenced-based and high-quality personalized care regardless of the method of delivery, grounded in the Nurses Code of Ethics.

Principle 2

As connected health is a method of healthcare delivery, the healthcare provided is subject to the same healthcare laws and board oversight as the healthcare provided in-person. Healthcare professionals should understand, however, that due to the nature of connected health business models, certain interstate commerce, fraud and abuse and other applicable state and federal laws not commonly encountered when delivering healthcare in-person may apply.

Principle 3

Healthcare services delivered via connected health technologies should prioritize improving access to quality healthcare that is guided by best available evidence, accepted clinical standards, and best practices. These services must include deployment of appropriate technological modalities which meet the patient's needs, are practical and easy to use, and align with specific patient location and care setting.

Principle 4

Professional practice and healthcare delivery, regardless of venue and channel of delivery, mandates that healthcare professionals meet state specific regulatory and institutional requirements in accordance with scope of practice. Due to variations in practice rules and regulations across states and facilities, providers must practice respective of these variations whilst delivering care via connected health.

**Principle 5**

Nursing and other healthcare professions are responsible for developing their own competencies to ensure the safe, effective and competent delivery of healthcare via connected health technologies using a patient- and family-centered team-based approach.

Principle 6

Healthcare services delivered via connected health technologies should be congruent with in-person care and must adhere to the best available evidence that represents current and emerging interdisciplinary standards of care, while recognizing the limitations inherent in technology to ensure optimal patient-centered outcomes.

Principle 7

When using connected health technologies, the integrity and therapeutic value of the patient-healthcare professional relationship should be established, maintained, and promoted via connected health.

Principle 8

Safeguards must be taken with the transmission of electronic information and communication conducted using connected health technologies in all connected health practice settings. This practice upholds the highest level of ethical conduct in the secure management of patient health information, patient privacy and confidentiality and protection against unauthorized breach of information. This includes informing patients of the use of third-party technology providers, the risk of disruption in the integrity of those providers' data management practices, and a commitment to protecting patients from such event.

Principle 9

Documentation requirements for healthcare services delivered via the utilization of connected health technologies should be consistent with requirements applicable to all other patient encounters.

Principle 10

Patients involved in a connected health encounter should be informed about the process, the inherent risks and benefits, and their rights and responsibilities, in compliance with applicable federal and state laws. Informed consent for connected health may not need to be independent from other informed consent for treatment although mechanisms for obtaining electronic consent should comply with applicable federal and state laws.

Principle 11

The safety of patients and healthcare professionals must be ensured. Hardware and software compliance with safety and security standards, the appropriateness of a connected health approach to the situation and demonstrated patient and provider user competency are essential components of safe connected health practice.

Principle 12

In order to inform connected health, and ensure the best outcomes, it is essential that the assessment, evaluation, and study of all aspects of connected health are ongoing and systematic. This research should include key stakeholders as primary informants and the resulting evidence utilized in the development and implementation of connected health guidelines and best practices.

Principle 13

Policies governing the practices and reimbursement of healthcare should be continuously updated and modernized to allow for the integration, national adoption, and sustainability of connected health.