

“Perception of Doctors for prescribing drugs in Teleconsultation (TC)”

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APOLLO REMOTE HEALTH VALUE CHAIN

Bridging the Healthcare Service Delivery Gap



REMOTE HEALTH CARE



Programs and Services

- Tele Clinics
- Tele Emergency
- Digital Dispensary
- Tele Radiology
- Tele Cardiology
- Tele Ophthalmology
- Tele Audiology
- Condition Management
- NCD Screening
- Smart Health Kiosks
- Tele-ICU Services
- Tele Education (CMEs)

Holistic model



- Manpower-Paramedics
- Teleconsultation with hub
- Tele emergency
- Tele ICU
- Laboratory
- Pharmacy



- **Teleconsultation- Availability of General Physician, Specialist and Super specialist Doctors**

Video consultation



- Manpower-Paramedics
- Teleconsultation with hub
- Laboratory
- POCT



Audio Consultation



- Direct Patient consultation with Physician



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India issued Telemedicine Guidelines, 2020 for the country to provide equal access to quality health care. This indicates Government of India is committed and recognizing the far-reaching benefits of Telemedicine. However, prescribing of drugs for Teleconsultations could be further explored to make it more comprehensive.

- The aim is to provide a perspective to policy makers on inclusion and exclusion of drugs in Teleconsultations to benefit the population at large.

Objective

- This study delves into the perception of doctors on prescribing drugs considering the diversity in Teleclinic models and modes of consultations and availability of expertise at patient end for making this effective.

SAMPLE SIZE

- 88 general physicians and 39 specialist doctors who are either Telemedicine physician or conventional physicians have participated.

PERIOD OF STUDY

- 1 Month

PLACE OF STUDY

- Apollo Tele Health, Hyderabad

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- GP & Specialist doctors from Apollo Tele Health, Hyderabad and doctors from outside Organization
- NLEM, 2015 list of drugs

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Schedule X of drug & cosmetic act and rules or any narcotic psychotropic substance listed in the Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substance, Act 1985 in TPG guidelines

STUDY DESIGN – SURVEY

➤ 4 scale survey instrument was designed for data collection based on Essential List of Medicines, 2015.

A: Empirical treatment (prescription of drugs with history collection from the client) for patients with virtual consultation from home

B: Prescription of drugs requiring aid of objective evidence from multifunctional remote examination device or standalone digital devices (digital otoscope, digital stethoscope, digital ECG, digital colposcope, digital ophthalmoscope, intra oral dental camera etc.) performed in Teleclinic.

C: Prescription of drugs requiring aid of digital devices (as documented above) and/or investigations

D: Drugs cannot be prescribed in teleconsultation

If option D is selected, The barriers for provision of drugs are:

1. Doctor-patient mode of teleconsultation: Yes/No
2. Doctor-doctor mode of teleconsultation: Yes/No
3. Doctor-paramedic mode of teleconsultation: Yes/No
4. Only hospitalised patients can be prescribed this drug/not suitable to be given in OPD/teleconsultation: Yes/No
5. Drugs can be prescribed only in Tele emergency and Tele-ICU
6. Patient needs physical examination/consultation before advising this drug: Yes/No
7. Doubtful/not aware whether this drug can be prescribed or not through tele-consultation: Yes/No
8. If route of administration is injection: Yes/No

RESULTS



REMOTE
HEALTH CARE



Drugs category	Empirical treatment (%)	With aid of device (%)	With aid of investigations (%)	Drugs cannot be prescribed (%)
Analgesic drugs-NSAIDS	74.4	15.4	7.7	2.5
Anti-helminthic drugs	74.4	17.9	7.7	0.0
Vitamin and Mineral Supplements	89.7	5.1	2.6	2.6
Disinfection and Antiseptics	69.2	20.5	10.3	0.0

RESULTS



REMOTE
HEALTH CARE



Drugs category (NEML- 2015)	Empirical treatment (%)	With aid of device (%)	With aid of investigations (%)	Drugs cannot be prescribed (%)
Ophthalmology drugs	25.6	33.3	28.2	12.9
Derma - Anti infective drugs	51.1	22.7	21.6	4.6
Cardiovascular Drugs	12.8	35.9	33.4	17.9
ENT Drugs	28.2	38.5	28.2	5.1
Gastro-intestinal Drugs	41.0	25.6	25.6	7.8

RESULTS

Drugs category (NEML- 2015)	Empirical treatment (%)	With aid of device (%)	With aid of investigations (%)	Drugs cannot be prescribed (%)
Anti-protozoal drugs	59.0	12.8	28.2	0.0
Anti-migraine drugs	53.8	10.3	25.6	10.3
Gastrointestinal drugs: Antidiarrheals	41.0	25.6	25.6	7.8
Antidiabetic drugs	17.0	4.5	72.7	5.8
Anti-bacterial drugs	41.0	20.5	35.9	2.6
Diuretic Drugs	17.9	15.4	53.8	12.9
Antiallergic-Antihistamines	51.3	12.8	25.6	10.3

RESULTS



REMOTE
HEALTH CARE



Drugs category (NEML- 2015)	Empirical treatment (%)	With aid of device (%)	With aid of investigations (%)	Drugs cannot be prescribed (%)
Antidotes and Drugs for Treatment of Poisoning	12.8	12.8	10.3	64.1
Anti-neoplastic and Immunosuppressant Drugs	5.1	0.0	15.4	79.5
Anti-Parkinsonism Drugs	15.4	2.6	30.8	51.2
Muscle Relaxants and Cholinesterase Inhibitors	20.5	5.1	12.8	61.6
Drugs used in Neonatal Care	7.7	5.1	23.1	64.1
Oxytocic and Anti-oxytocic Drugs	7.7	5.1	15.4	71.8

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

- Limited Participation of doctors from outside Apollo Tele Health

CONCLUSION

- The above study lays a foundation and broadens the choice of drugs through Teleconsultation which can be further explored to be included in the Telemedicine guidelines on usage and limitations of drugs.
- In the category – “drugs can not be prescribed”, usage can be further explored in Models with Emergency setup.

THANK YOU
