

Health care organizations see value of telemedicine

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(HealthDay)—Health care organizations are developing and implementing telemedicine programs, although many have yet to receive reimbursement, according to a report published by Foley & Lardner.

Researchers surveyed 57 health care leaders, mainly C-level executives from for-profit and nonprofit care providers.

According to the report, 90 percent of [health care](#) leaders report that their organizations have already begun developing or implementing a telemedicine program. Most respondents reported that the development of telemedicine services was very important (52 percent) or important (32 percent) to their organizations. Only 8 percent of respondents said

they had no [telemedicine program](#), 6 percent were categorized as mature, and the remaining programs were at various stages of development or implementation. Telemedicine advancements are partly due to the shift in financial and payment incentives under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), while 50 percent of respondents ranked improving quality of care as the main rationale for implementing telemedicine. Health care leaders do not expect an immediate economic return on investment; the primary obstacle to adoption is reimbursement, with 41 percent of [respondents](#) reporting that they are not reimbursed at all for telemedicine services.

"For executives under pressure to find cost-effective methods of engagement with their patients, telemedicine offers ways to streamline operations and create multiple touch points with patients, making it one of the most reliable methods for transitioning to a post-ACA, forward-looking reimbursement model," according to the report."

More information: [More Information](#)

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