
E-Consult News

December 2019

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Adoption

Maternal Mental Health Pilot Project Highlights Provider Willingness and Challenges

Like many specialty care needs, pregnant women with mood and anxiety disorders have limited access to care due both the shortage of psychiatrists and a lack of training in reproductive psychology, the [California Health Care Foundation](#) reports.

To bridge this care gap Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (LADHM), Department of Health Services (LADHS) and USC's Keck School of Medicine initiated an e-consult pilot program in 2017. The results, published in [Psychiatric Services](#), reveal that while psychiatrists were very open to reproductive psychiatric training only 15% adopted e-consult.

Emily Dossett, MD, a reproductive psychiatrist for LADMH and assistant professor at the Keck School of Medicine, notes that the primary barriers to adoption were "nuts and bolts" of the IT system: lack of EHR integration, interoperability and reimbursement.

Access

Rural Access, Outcomes and Telehealth

The Health Affairs December 2019 issue includes a [study](#) on how rural Americans have "worse health outcomes than their urban counterparts." Researchers surveyed of Medicare beneficiaries with chronic conditions and found that rural residency was "associated with a 40% higher preventable hospitalization rate and 23% higher mortality rate." The authors found that the rural-urban divide accounts for a 55% difference in the rates of preventable hospitalizations and 40% difference in mortality rates.

The authors note that telehealth could be one solution for bridging this divide, highlighting the potential for modalities such as e-consult to bolster access to care.

Events

E-Consult Workgroup December Webinar

Please join us for the next E-Consult Workgroup Webinar featuring updates from the California Department of Managed Health Care and best practices in primary care engagement from Partnership HealthPlan.

December 2019 E-Consult Workgroup Webinar

12/19/2019, 12 to 1 p.m. Pacific

<https://zoom.us/j/352751180>

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