Appendix 1: Summary of analysis

Study	Technology	Effectiveness or efficiency	Bias and quality
	intervention		measures
A randomized trial	One-time	Health characteristics of all	No bias detected
of telemedicine	telemedicine	participants were collected for	Randomized
efficacy and safety	consultations for	both the control and	noninferiority trial
for nonacute	nonacute	intervention group: body mass	telemedicine
headaches [15]	headache	index, neck pain, insomnia, and	group (N=200),
		hypertension. Although there	traditional
		were slight changes for both	(N=202)
		groups in these characteristics,	
		there was no significant	
		difference between them.	
Results from a	telehealth (yoga)	More than 80% of participants	Participants were
clinical yoga		who endorsed a problem with	predominantly
program for		pain, energy level, depression,	male.
veterans: yoga via		or anxiety reported	True experiment,
telehealth provides		improvement in these	control (N=29),
comparable		symptoms. Those who	intervention
satisfaction and		participated via telehealth did	(N=30)
health		not differ from those who	
improvements to		participated in-person in any	
in-person yoga		measure of satisfaction, overall	
[16]		improvement (<i>P</i> =.40), or	
		improvement in any of 16	
		specific health problems: back	
		pain, other pain, headaches,	
		upset stomach, constipation or	
		diarrhea, trouble falling or	
		staying asleep, energy level,	
		irritable, angry outbursts,	
		depression, difficulty	

		concentrating, anxiety, easily	
		startled, repeated disturbing	
		memories, and other.	
Comparison of	Robot-assisted	No difference in operative	No bias identified.
robotic and	surgery for	duration or requirement for	Quasi-
laparoscopic	laparoscopic	blood transfusion. Robotic	experimental
colorectal	colorectal	method had decreased incidence	(nonrandomized),
resections with	resections	of unplanned conversion to	control (N=7920),
respect to 30-day		open surgery compared with	intervention
perioperative		laparoscopic. No difference in	(N=472).
morbidity [17]		postoperative outcomes of	
		postoperative ileus, anastomotic	
		leak, venous thromboembolism,	
		wound infection, cardiac	
		complications, and pulmonary	
		complications. No difference in	
		operative duration or	
		requirement for blood	
		transfusion. Robotic method	
		had decreased incidence of	
		unplanned conversion to open	
		surgery compared with	
		laparoscopic.	
Adherence and	Telemedicine for	Intervention group participants	Small sample size
factors affecting	rehabilitation of	experienced increased self-	(<30), elderly
satisfaction in	chronic	efficacy and independence,	patients (σ =55.2).
long-term	obstructive	greater emotional safety, and	Two-year pilot
telerehabilitation	pulmonary disease	maintenance of motivation.	study, (N=10)
for patients with	(COPD) patients	Adherence rate for this	

chronic		telerehabilitation program was	
obstructive		higher than that reported by the	
pulmonary		World Health Organization for	
disease: a mixed		long-term therapy in chronic	
methods study		diseases.	
[18]			
The effect of	Web-based	No difference in postpartum	The study
interactive Web-	monitoring on	depression between intervention	underrepresented
based monitoring	breastfeeding	and control groups (both	Hispanic and
on breastfeeding	exclusivity,	decreased and were equally as	Asian
exclusivity,	intensity, and	effective). Effects of exclusivity	populations.
intensity, and	duration	and intensity were higher with	Randomized
duration in		intervention group, and effects	controlled trial
healthy, term		on duration were equally	(RCT), control
infants after		effective in both groups.	(N=57),
hospital discharge			intervention
[19]			(N=49).
A randomized	Personalized_text	The intervention group	Convenience
controlled trial of	message	demonstrated increased	sample of one
personalized text	reminders to	medication adherence and	geographical area,
message reminders	promote	demonstrated durability of	participants
to promote	medication	adherence post intervention.	received payment.
medication	adherence among		RCT, control
adherence among	human		(N=55),
HIV-positive	immunodeficienc		intervention
adolescents and	y virus–positive		(N=54).
young adults [20]	adolescents and		
	young adults		
A telehealth	Telehealth	Depressive symptoms, upset	Small sample size
behavioral	program for	following disruptive behaviors,	(<30).
coaching	depressive	and negative mood states were	True experiment,
intervention for	symptoms	statistically lower in the	pre-post design,

neurocognitive		behavioral coaching condition	control (N=50),
disorder family		than in the basic education and	intervention
carers [21]		support condition. Caregiving	(N=50).
		self-efficacy scores for	
		obtaining respite and for	
		managing patient behavioral	
		disturbances were significantly	
		higher in the coaching	
		condition.	
Clinical decision	Using clinical	A quality improvement	Coinventors
support and	decision support	initiative supported by clinical	involved in
palivizumab: a	systems (CDSSs)	decision support (CDS) and	conducting the
means to protect	to determine when	workflow tools integrated in the	experiment. True
from respiratory	palivizumab	electronic health record (EHR)	experiment,
syncytial virus	(expensive	improved recognition of	control (N=162),
[22]	treatment) should	eligibility and may have	intervention
	be administered	increased palivizumab	(N=194).
	(under a	administration rates; the	
	complicated	palivizumab-focused group	
	condition list).	performed significantly better	
		than a comprehensive	
		intervention. Comprehensive	
		intervention was associated with	
		a trend toward increased missed	
		doses that may be related to	
		alert fatigue.	

Scalable hospital	Hospital at Home	Safety and convenience were	A large number of
at home with	(HaH) model with	significantly higher rated than	participants
virtual physician	virtual physician	traditional method of treatment,	eligible for HaH
visits: pilot study	visits	Activities of daily living were	refused. Quasi-
[23]		significantly higher in the HaH	experimental
		group (5.81-5.39, <i>P</i> =.064),	(nonrandomized),
		service utilization and mortality	control (N=52),
		at 30 days was significantly	intervention
		lower in the HaH group (12-41,	(N=50).
		<i>P</i> <.001), number of specialty	
		appointments was lower (0.34-	
		1.50, <i>P</i> <.001), number of	
		patients with hospital	
		readmissions was lower (7-17,	
		<i>P</i> =.072), cumulative service	
		utilization and mortality at 90	
		days, total number of hospital	
		readmissions (14-39, <i>P</i> <.002).	
		Death was not statistically	
		significant for 30 days or 90	
		days.	
Mortality benefits	CDSS for	Patients aged ≤65 had greater	Study does not
of antibiotic	antibiotics	mortality benefit (odds ratio,	include children.
computerized		OR 0.45, 95% CI 0.20-1.00,	True experiment,
decision support		P=.05) than patients that were	control (N=99),
system: modifying		older than 65 (OR 1.28, 95% CI	intervention
effects of age [24]		0.91-1.82, <i>P</i> =.16). No effect	(N=99).
		was observed on incidence of	
		colostridium difficile (OR 1.02,	
		95% CI 0.34-3.01) and	
		multidrug-resistant organism	

	1		
		(OR 1.06, 95% CI 0.42-2.71)	
		infections. No increase in	
		infection-related readmission	
		(OR 1.16, 95% CI 0.48-2.79)	
		was found in survivors. Receipt	
		of CDSS-recommended	
		antibiotics reduced mortality	
		risk in patients aged 65 years or	
		younger and did not increase the	
		risk in older patients.	
Electronic stroke	Electronic stroke	There was a significant	Significant
CarePath:	CarePath	reduction in observed or	technical
integrated		expected inpatient mortality	challenges were
approach to stroke		after implementation of the	experienced that
care [25]		stroke CarePath in patients with	resulted in delays
		ischemic stroke (OR 0.59, 95%	in data
		CI 0.42-0.83), but not in the	availability.
		control patients with	Quasi-
		intracerebral hemorrhage (OR	experimental
		0.90, 95% CI 0.59-1.38) or	(nonrandomized),
		subarachnoid hemorrhage (OR	control (N=2852),
		1.05, 95% CI 0.67-1.65). There	intervention
		was a significant increase in the	(N=1106).
		proportion of ischemic stroke	
		patients with length of stay	
		(LOS) equal or less than	
		expected LOS after CarePath	
		implementation (P =.047), but	
		there was no significant	
		difference in patients with	
		intracerebral hemorrhage	

		(P=.117) or subarachnoid	
		hemorrhage (P=.943).	
Electronic	Electronic	The time to initiation of	No bias identified.
ordering system	ordering system	analgesia from arrival in the	Quasi-
improves		post-anesthesia care unit	experimental
postoperative pain		(PACU) was significantly lower	(nonrandomized),
management after		in the electronic group	control (N=106),
total knee or hip		compared with the conventional	intervention
arthroplasty [26]		group (mean=24.5, standard	(N=96).
		deviation [SD]=28.3 min vs	
		mean=51.1, SD=26.2 min;	
		<i>P</i> <.001), as were visual analog	
		scale pain scores (mean=0.82,	
		SD=1.08 vs mean=1.5,	
		SD=1.52; <i>P</i> <.001) and the	
		volume of patient-controlled	
		epidural analgesia needed to	
		control pain (mean=27.9,	
		SD=20.2 mL vs mean=34.8,	
		SD=20.3 mL; <i>P</i> =.001) at 4	
		hours postoperatively. PACU	
		LOS and hospital LOS did not	
		significantly differ in the two	
		groups.	

The effectiveness	Patient-centered	Patients in the DIALOG+ arm	No bias
of a patient-	assessment with a	had better subjective quality of	identified.
centered	solution-focused	life at 3, 6, and 2 months	Pragmatic,
assessment with a	approach	(<i>P</i> =.035, .058, and .014,	exploratory,
solution-focused	(DIALOG+) for	respectively; Cohen <i>d</i> =0.29-	parallel-group,
approach	patients with	0.34). The also had significantly	cluster-RCT,
(DIALOG+) for	psychosis	fewer unmet needs at 3 and 6	control (N=85),
patients with		months, fewer general	intervention
psychosis: a		psychopathological symptoms	(N=94).
pragmatic cluster-		at all-time points, and better	
randomized		objective social outcomes at 12	
controlled trial in		months, with no significant	
community care		differences in other outcomes.	
[27]			
Reducing	Web-based	Emotional and mental health,	African American
preconception	preconception	risks triggered that were	women only.
risks among	conversational	resolved/total no. of risks	Results may not
African American	agent system,	triggered (15/35, SD 43.0 vs	translate to the
women with	"Gabby"	4/32, SD 13.0; <i>P</i> =.01). Health	general
conversational		care, risks triggered that were	population. RCT,
agent technology		resolved/total no. of risks	control (N=31),
[28]		triggered (8/24, SD 23.5 vs	intervention
		7/64, SD 10.9); <i>P</i> =.09.	(N=46).
		Immunizations and vaccines,	
		risks triggered that were	
		resolved/total no. of risks	
		triggered (25/80, SD 31.3 vs	
		21/111, SD 18.9; <i>P</i> =.05). Men	
		and health care, risks triggered	
		that were resolved/ total no. of	
		risks triggered (7/64, SD 10.9 vs	

	I	T	
		14/39, SD 35.9; <i>P</i> =.01).	
		Nutrition and activity, risks	
		triggered that were	
		resolved/total no. of risks	
		triggered (101/292, SD 34 vs	
		67/302, SD 22.2; <i>P</i> =.01). Total	
		risks triggered that were	
		resolved/total no. of risks	
		triggered (297/1067, SD 27.8 vs	
		224/1091, SD 20.5; P=.01)	
Feasibility and	Telemonitoring of	COPD patients who completed	Only for
acute care	COPD and heart	the program sustained clinically	underserved
utilization	failure (HF)	meaningful improvements in	population. Quasi-
outcomes of a	patients (for	their health status. HF patients	experimental
postacute	underserved	also improved their health	(nonrandomized),
transitional	population)	through the program.	controlHF
telemonitoring		Significantly reduction in the	(N=59),
program for		30-day readmission rate.	controlCOPD
underserved			(N=174)
chronic disease			interventionHF
patients [29]			(N=59),
			interventionCOP
			D (N=58).
An electronic tool	Electronic sepsis	There was no significant	No bias identified.
for the evaluation	evaluation and	difference for mortality (14.3%	Pragmatic
and treatment of	management tool	vs 14.9%), ICU-free days (17 vs	randomized trial,
sepsis in the ICU:		19), or vasopressor-free days	control (N=189),
a randomized		(22.2 vs 22.6) for the	intervention
controlled trial		intervention compared with	(N=218).
[30]		control.	
Effect of a	Computer-guided	Improved cardiovascular	No bias identified.
computer-guided,	quality	disease risk management,	Cluster-

quality	improvement	patient in intervention were	randomized trial,
improvement	intervention	more likely to receive screening	control
program for		compared with control (62.8%	(N=19,340),
cardiovascular		vs 53.4%). No difference in	intervention
disease risk		prescription rates.	(N=19,385).
management in			
primary health			
care: the treatment			
of cardiovascular			
risk using			
electronic decision			
support cluster-			
randomized trial			
[31]			
Expert advice	Telemedicine	Significant improvement in	No bias identified.
provided through	wound care	wound healing compared with	Prospective
telemedicine		conventional practices (70% vs	cluster-controlled
improves healing		45%).	study, control
of chronic			(N=40),
wounds:			intervention
prospective cluster			(N=50).
controlled study			
[32]			
Using electronic	CDSS	Patients who visited clinics that	No bias identified.
health record		were missing at least one of the	Retrospective
clinical decision		CDS functions were more likely	review, quasi-
support is		to have controlled blood	experimental
associated with		pressure (86% vs 82%, OR 1.3;	(nonrandomized),
improved quality		95% CI 1.1-1.5) and more likely	control
of care [33]		to not have adverse drug event	(N=10,466),
		visits (99.9% vs 99.8%; OR 3.0,	intervention
		95% CI 1.3-7.3).	(N=40,588).

Comparison of	Customized,	Decrease in diabetes distress for	No bias identified.
community health	interactive, Web-	the intervention group	Randomized
worker–led	based tablet-	compared with control, but no	clinical trial,
diabetes	computer	difference in other outcomes.	control (N=95),
medication	delivered tools		intervention
decision-making			(N=93).
support for low-			
income Latino and			
African American			
adults with			
diabetes using e-			
health tools versus			
print materials: a			
randomized			
controlled trial			
[34]			
Integrating real-	Atrial fibrillation	Significant gain in quality-	No bias identified.
time clinical	decision support	adjusted life expectancy in	Retrospective
information to	tool	832/1876 patients (44.3%).	cohort, (N=1876).
provide estimates			
of net clinical			
benefit of			
antithrombotic			
therapy for			
patients with atrial			
fibrillation [35]			

Implementation	Computerized	No difference in time to	Study of one
and evaluation of	asthma	disposition decision. No change	center only.
an integrated	management	in hospital admission rate. No	Randomized
computerized	system in a	difference in ED length of stay.	clinical trial,
asthma	pediatric		control (N=394),
management	emergency		intervention
system in a	department (ED)		(N=394).
pediatric			
emergency			
department: a			
randomized			
clinical trial [36]			
The Utah Remote	Telemonitoring	Reduced average A1C, declined	Used a
Monitoring		systolic and diastolic blood	convenience
Project: improving		pressure, decreased low-density	sample.
health care one		lipoprotein (LDL) content	Nonrandomized
patient at a time			prospective
[37]			observational
			preintervention-
			postintervention
			study, tracked
			A1C and blood
			pressure (BP)
			(N=89), tracked
			A1C only (N=12),
			tracked BP only
			(N=14).
Improving	Electronic order	Pneumococcal vaccination rate	No bias identified.
adherence for	sets for COPD	was higher (57% vs 45%,	Pre-post design,
management of	management	P=.02), there was an increase in	pre intervention
acute exacerbation		long acting muscarinic	(N=203), post
of chronic		antagonist usage during	intervention

obstructive		hospitalization (13% vs 25%,	(N=217).
pulmonary disease		P=.002), and the median	
[38]		corticosteroid usage decreased	
		by 49% in the postintervention	
		group compared with the	
		preintervention period.	
Impact of nurse-	Remote screening	Patients in the postintervention	No bias identified.
led remote	and prompting for	period were more likely to	Pre-post design,
screening and	evidence-based	receive daily sedation	Pre intervention
prompting for	practices in the	interruptions (interrater	(N=4339), post
evidence-based	intensive care unit	reliability [IRR]=1.57, 95% CI	intervention
practices in the	(ICU)	1.45-1.71, <i>P</i> <.001) and daily	(N=8938).
ICU [39]		spontaneous breathing trials	
		(IRR=1.24, 95% CI 1.20-1.29).	
		Patients in the postintervention	
		period experienced shorter	
		mean duration mechanical	
		ventilation, ICU length of stay,	
		and hospital length of stay.	
Feasibility and	Telehealth	Improvements in self-efficacy	No bias identified.
effectiveness of an		for managing depression and	Single-arm pilot
automated		diastolic blood pressure.	trial (N=70).
telehealth		Reduction in urgent care and	
intervention to		primary care visits	
improve illness			
self-management			
in people with			
serious psychiatric			
and medical			
disorders [40]			

Effects of an	Web-based	Decreased pain intensity and	No bias identified.
individually	interventions	unpleasantness. Increase in	Nonexperimental,
tailored Web-		quality of life.	pre-post design,
based chronic pain			(N=645).
management			
program on pain			
severity,			
psychological			
health, and			
functioning [41]			
Development and	Mobile health	Patients demonstrated an	Lack of control
pilot testing of a	technology	improved asthma-related quality	group, seasonal
mobile health		of life, the mean mini-Asthma	influence on
solution for		Quality of Life Questionnaire	asthma not
asthma self-		score improved by $0.5 (P=.047)$.	controlled for as
management:		The Canadian Asthma	the study was only
asthma action plan		Consensus Guidelines symptom	conducted during
smartphone		benchmarks of asthma control	the summer
application pilot		reduced in the postintervention	months on 82%
study [42]		group.	women, small
			sample size <30.
			(N=22)
The impact of	Health	Fewer single day and 7-day	No bias identified.
EHR and HIE on	information	readmission rates when medical	Retrospective
reducing avoidable	exchange	history was viewed via EHR	observational,
admissions:			(N=281,750).
controlling main			
differential			
diagnoses [43]			

Reliable	Automated	Increased proportion of visits	No bias identified.
individualized	previsit support	during which cholesterol	Interrupted time
monitoring	from an EHR	monitoring was completed.	series cohort
improves		Significant improvement with	design, (N=62).
cholesterol control		controlled LDL.	
in kidney			
transplant			
recipients [44]			
Web-based	Internet	Participants in the intervention	Large participant
intervention to	intervention with	group had significant gains in	dropout. RCT,
promote physical	automated video	the level of activity compared	control (N=177),
activity by	and text for	with the control group	intervention
sedentary older	physical activity		(N=125).
adults: randomized			
controlled trial			
[45]			
Practice-based	Telemedicine	Significant effects on response	No bias identified.
versus		and admission rates. Greater	Pragmatic
telemedicine-		reduction in severity over time.	randomized
based			comparative
collaborative care			effectiveness trial,
for depression in			control (N=151),
rural federally			intervention
qualified health			(N=132).
centers: a			
pragmatic			
randomized			
comparative			
effectiveness trial			
[46]			

Internet-delivered	Internet-based	Intervention group had no	No bias identified.
cognitive-	guided self-help	significant difference in	RCT, control
behavioral therapy	program for	outcomes.	(N=28),
v. conventional	bulimia nervosa		intervention
guided self-help	patients.		(N=48).
for bulimia			
nervosa: long-term			
evaluation of a			
randomized			
controlled trial			
[47]			
Efficacy of a	CDS	Participants in the intervention	No bias identified.
clinical decision-		group had a higher average	RCT, control
support system in		increase in cluster of	(N=505),
an HIV practice: a		differentiation 4 count	intervention
randomized trial		compared with the control	(N=506).
[48]		group (5.3 vs 3.2)	
Hospital	Health	Lower mortality, higher patient	On the basis of
implementation of	information	satisfaction, and higher	quality manager's
health information	technology	assessments of quality of patient	survey response,
technology and		care.	(N=470).
quality of care: are			
they related? [49]			
How to improve	Software program	Reduced inappropriately high	No bias identified.
drug dosing for		doses of renally excreted	Cluster-RCT,
patients with renal		medications compared with the	control (N=206),
impairment in		control group (19.2% vs 34.5%)	intervention
primary care—a			(N=198).
cluster-			
randomized			
controlled trial			
[50]			

The effects of	Electronic health	Asthma control as measured by	No bias identified.
combining Web-	for kids with	Asthma Control Questionnaire	RCT, control
based eHealth with	asthma	improved significantly for the	(N=127),
telephone nurse		intervention group but not the	intervention
case management		control group (-0.42, -0.11)	(N=132).
for pediatric			
asthma control: a			
randomized			
controlled trial			
[51]			

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