Advancing Tech-Enabled Health and Home Care

Collaboration and Coordination to Accelerate Efforts

Across sectors, collaborative approaches and overarching strategies facilitate coordination among stakeholders in complex environments and speed progress by spreading best practices, developing the evidence base, and advancing policy. A national strategy or plan on tech-enabled health and home care could engage agencies across federal and state governments, break down silos, and align stakeholders toward shared goals. This approach has advanced new solutions in other complex policy arenas and warrants further development.

Tech-Enabled Care

Tech-enabled care is defined by the American Medical Association (using the term “digitally-enabled care”) as “fully integrated in-person and virtual care models that hybridize care delivery based on clinical appropriateness and other factors such as convenience and cost.”

The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA), which was signed into law in 2011, directed the US Department of Health and Human Services to create and maintain a national plan. The plan’s objectives included coordination across federal agencies and international bodies; advancement of health equity; and improvement in treatment, diagnosis, and care coordination. Through the national plan and its associated processes, goals are set, progress is assessed annually, and priority recommendations are identified.
Key Elements of National Plan to Advance Tech-Enabled Health and Home Care

A coordinated plan for integrating health and home care through technology could replicate the structure and framework of NAPA and other national plans, such as the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act, to provide a platform for connecting and coordinating issues, stakeholders, and strategies. There are five key elements of a national plan or strategy to drive progress on tech-enabled care:

1. **Establish a common lexicon**: Because stakeholders working in the field span health, technology, government, finance, and communities, a shared language with defined terminology is needed to support coordination and increase clarity.

2. **Advance digital equity and access**: Central to any effort is ensuring that the digital divide does not leave a large portion of our population unable to benefit fully from the potential gains in health and well-being made possible by tech-enabled care.

3. **Build the case through data**: To validate what works, identify the return on investment, and demonstrate the impact on health outcomes and spending, coordination among stakeholders—through projects, pilots, and data-sharing for research—will accelerate the development of the evidence and support quality of care.

4. **Address workforce challenges**: Innovative strategies and policy progress to build the health- and home-care workforce are essential to meeting demand and increasing access to home-based care.

5. **Develop and scale payment models and incentives**: Shifts toward value-based arrangements from traditional fee-for-service are critical to aligning incentives and scaling new models of care.

For additional information, see the full *Advancing Tech-Enabled Health and Home Care* report, which presents consensus-built, actionable recommendations to integrate health and home care through technology. Recommendations are based on informational interviews, a survey, and a roundtable with experts across sectors.