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## 153. Are Toxicologists Using Telemedicine?

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**Background:** Telemedicine use has grown rapidly in recent years, enabling many specialties to extend their reach and billing. Understanding how medical toxicologists use telemedicine is important, as it may expand access to specialist consultation across multiple remote medical centers.

**Hypothesis or Research Question:** Medical toxicologists are increasing their use of telemedicine.

**Methods:** This is a review of the Toxicology Investigators Consortium (ToxIC) Core Registry from January 2018-March 2025 for all medical toxicology patients evaluated via telemedicine. Patients of all ages with a telemedicine encounter were included. Data was abstracted by a single author to a standardized data abstraction form. The method of telemedicine consultation (e.g., via video, phone, or by chart review only), rationale for telemedicine use, and whether the consultation was billed were recorded. Other abstracted data included demographic information, reason for the consultation, and if an antidote or treatment was administered.

**Results:** There were 1,851 telemedicine encounters reported, including 143 in 2020, 122 in 2021, 206 in 2022, 324 in 2023, 670 in 2024, and 386 through the first 5 months of 2025. The relative frequency of telemedicine consultations among all patient encounters in the ToxIC Core Registry was 2.1% in 2020 (143/6668), 1.4% in 2021 (122/8552), 2.9% in 2022 (206/7206), 4.4% in 2023 (324/7392), 7.6% in 2024 (670/8868), and 10.1% in the first half of 2025 (386/3813). The mean patient age was 42 years old (range 2-88 years) with 864 identifying as female (47%), 96 male (5%), and 21 as transgender (1%). Video encounters were most common (n=1033; 56%), while 34% of consultations involved a chart review only. Telehealth was primarily used for offsite patients (n=908; 49%), lack of bedside privileges (n=298; 16%), or off-hours consultations (n=190; 10%). Nearly 80% of all encounters (n=1,463) were billed, increasing every year from 52% (n=74) in 2020, 62% (n=200) in 2023, and 87% (n=582) in 2024. Addiction medicine consultations were performed in 34% of patients (n=632). More addiction consults were for complications of ethanol use than for opioid withdrawal (n=747 vs n=185). Buprenorphine was administered to 206 patients, methadone to 57, and naloxone prescriptions or take-home doses to 162. Naltrexone or acamprosate was given in 152 encounters.

**Conclusion:** Toxicology telemedicine consultations increased from 2020-2025, along with the percentage that were billed. Future research should examine collections for telemedicine consults by toxicologists and site variation which may contribute to trends in telemedicine consults.

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