

Measuring Telehealth Value and Impact Using a Balanced Scorecard Approach



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BACKGROUND

- In 2017 Duke developed an initial strategic plan focusing on three Telehealth platforms e-communications (e-consults), video visits, and virtual consults
- Since 2017, there has been continued work on the three platforms identified to establish robust, scalable capabilities across the enterprise
- Balanced Scorecards are standard in many industries as a management tool that provides a holistic view of an organization's performance¹
- Originating in 1999, Duke Health began utilizing the Balanced Scorecard framework. Used by leaders at all levels to drive decisions, the Balanced Scorecard has become an integral part of daily operations and strategic planning at Duke Health²
- While many believe Telehealth has great potential for improving access to care, widespread adoption has not been realized. Some believe this is due to a lack of clarity in describing the value of telehealth implementations³

Current Programs Acute Care Virtual Consults: Telestroke, DRAH (ED Child Psych, Adult Rheum, Neuro Critical Care) Video Visits (Post-Op, Chronic Disease, New patient, Duke Health Anywhere (DZC) Virtual Consults (Outreach Video Clinic Visits, Remote Interpretations) Post-Acute Care Virtual Consults (Outreach Video Clinic Visits, Remote Interpretations) Post-Discharge Video Visits Feathy Conference-DiHi) Outpatient Care Primary Care-Specialty E-Comm/Case Review

PROJECT AIM

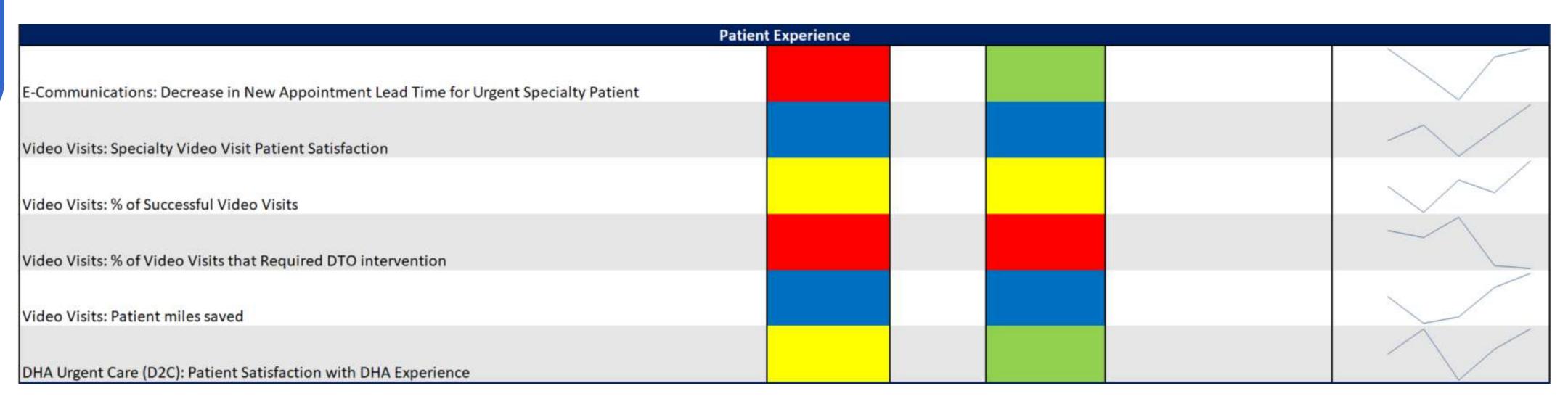
Build upon the existing Duke Balanced Scorecard infrastructure to enable the scale of strategic telehealth platforms through three main objectives:

- Widespread communication of impact and value through common language
- Telehealth alignment with system priorities and growth
- Identification of improvement opportunities

METHODS

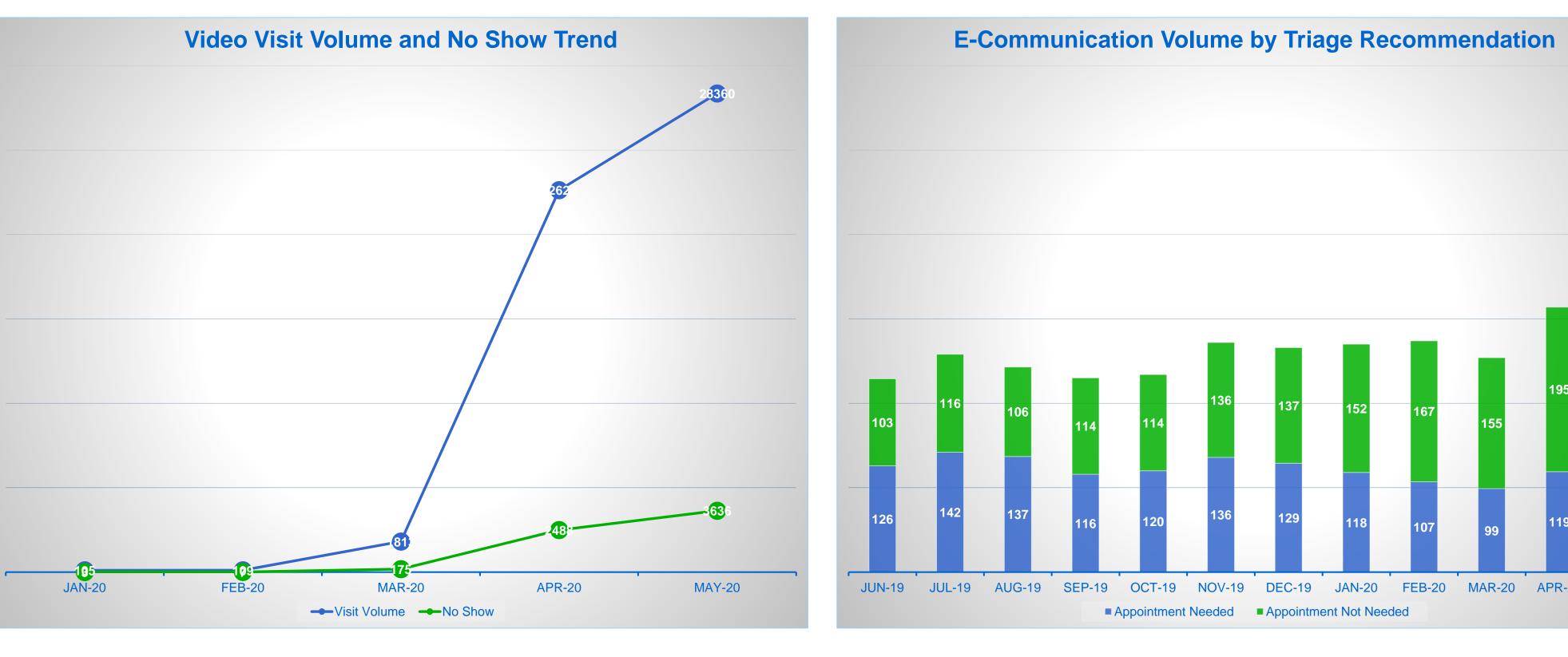
- Set consistent definitions of platforms for use across the enterprise
- Convene multi-disciplinary stakeholder groups to determine metric definitions, exclusions, and calculations
- Select metrics supporting the value-based care transition, user experience, and health system priorities; align with strategic initiatives
- Set annual and monthly targets aimed at continuous improvement using historical performance, industry benchmarks, and academic journals
- Use existing Duke Balanced Scorecard custom built intranet site and quadrants Quality and Patient Safety, Patient Experience, Finance and Growth, and People and the Environment; create stand-alone Duke Telehealth Scorecard

Figure 2 Sample Balanced Scorecard Quadrant



OUTCOMES

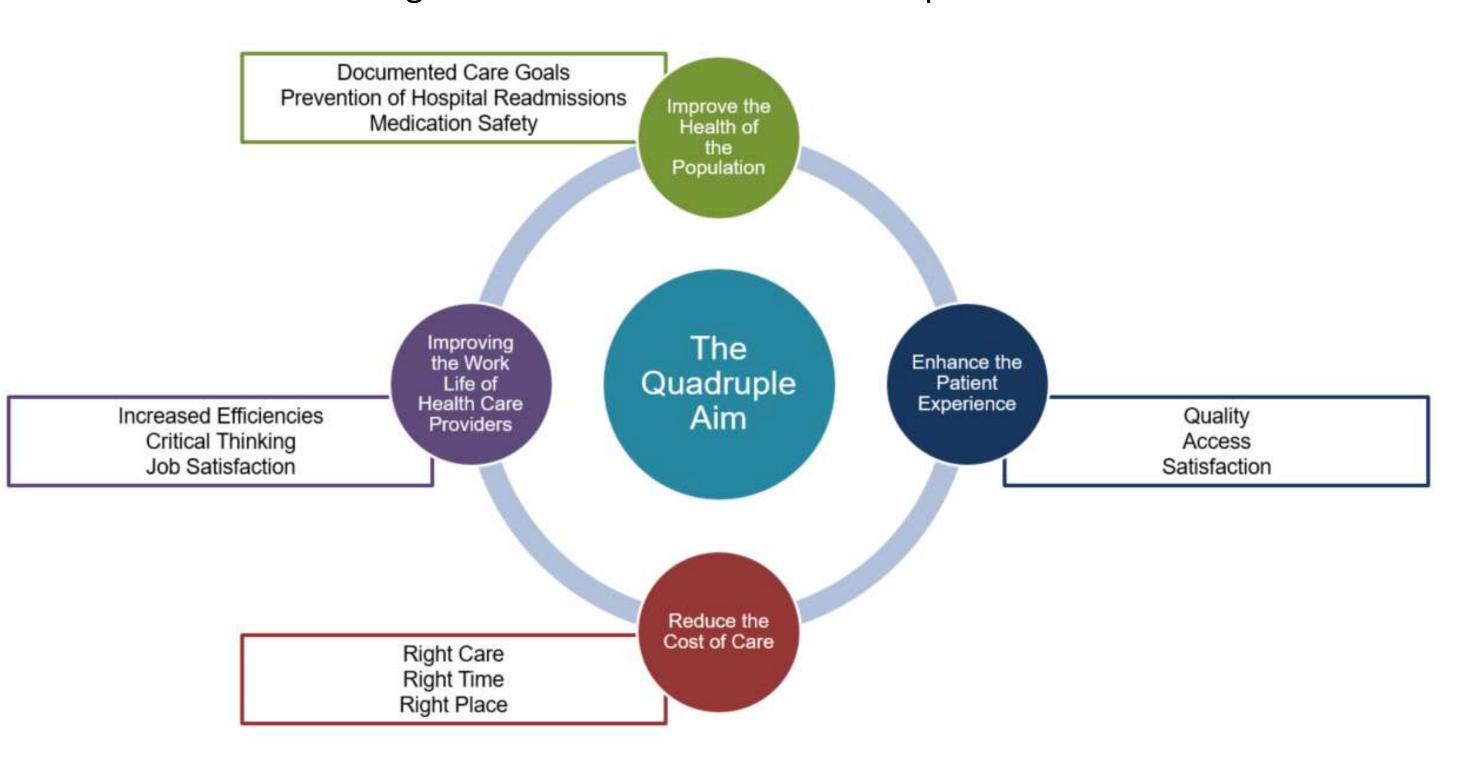
Figure 3 Sample Program Metrics and Outcomes



CONCLUSIONS

- Telehealth progress can be difficult to translate into value and requires careful communication amongst all stakeholders
- Alignment with existing infrastructure aids in a shared understanding of success
- Telehealth helps healthcare providers to achieve the Quadruple Aim
- The Balanced Scorecard framework allows decision makers at all levels to track ongoing value and identify opportunities for areas of improvement

Figure 4 Telehealth and the Quadruple Aim



LIMITATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- Prior to Covid-19, lack of reimbursement parity and restrictive provider state licensure laws limited widespread adoption of telehealth
- Post Covid-19, variation in payer and government policies to support ongoing telehealth adoption creates some uncertainty about future financial implications
- As programs grow, a next step would be to integrate Telehealth scorecard metrics with other system scorecards for shared awareness and accountability

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