

Medical Care is seeking high-quality health services research manuscripts on implementation and evaluation of virtual visits in primary care delivery. Submitted articles will be peer reviewed and considered for publication in a special issue entitled, “Virtual Visits in Primary Care: Implications for Research and Healthcare Delivery.” This special issue will provide an overview of the current state of research in this area of scientific inquiry.

The Journal will consider original research, review articles, and brief reports on patient (e.g., socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, age), provider (e.g., department, specialty), and system (e.g., cost-sharing, distance to clinic) factors associated with utilization of virtual visits (VV) compared to in-person visits (IPV) in primary care (broadly inclusive of general internal, family, and pediatric medicine; OB/Gyn; behavioral health). Potential topics include:

Theme 1 - Patients’ preferences. When patients have a choice of a VV or IPV, are some patients (e.g., older vs. younger, near or far from a primary care clinic) more likely to select a VV versus and IPV? Does selection change over time as VVs become increasingly available?

Theme 2 - Utilization trends. Is there a 1:1 VV for IPV substitution effect, or is there a >1:1 VV for IPV inducement effect? Are patient factors associated with inducement or substitution of visit modes?

Theme 3 - Variation in care delivery and outcomes. Given a visit mode (VV vs. IPV), do providers differ in ancillary service (laboratory, diagnostic radiology, prescription medication) ordering patterns for a specific medical condition? Conditional on an order, do patients differ in adherence patterns in fulfilling the order for VVs versus IPV?

Theme 4 - Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (over the course of 2019 to mid-2021) on patient selection of VV or IPV, utilization trends, and variation in care delivery and outcomes.

Submissions from health care systems or practice-based research networks that explore the impact of implementation of virtual visits (e.g., video visits, synchronous chats) on primary care access, utilization, and quality of care compared to in-person visits are especially encouraged.

Deadline for manuscript submission: **April 30th, 2022**.

Submitted manuscripts will considered and peer reviewed. Please read over the Journal’s “Instructions for Authors” before submitting your manuscript:

<https://edmgr.ovid.com/mdc/accounts/ifaauth.htm>

All manuscripts must be submitted online through the journal's electronic submission system via the website at:

<https://www.editorialmanager.com/mdc/default.aspx>

Choose the article type “Virtual Visits Supplement” from the drop-down menu.