

# Focus on Community Care: Telemedicine reimbursement in France

This flagship example from France shows how cost efficiency can be achieved through this reimbursement initiative on digital care. Learnings from this can be used to upscale similar practices in other local, regional and national contexts. MedTech Europe's Community Care group calls for better patient care and more attention to the community setting. For more information visit [www.medtecheurope.org](http://www.medtecheurope.org)

## How digital technology is making its way to home care?

To counter the rise of "medical deserts" (a populated region more than 60 minutes away from the nearest acute-care hospital) in France, the Ministry of Health set up reimbursement procedures for teleconsultations aimed at patients with chronic and long-term diseases. As part of the coordinated pathway from the 2018 Social Security Financing Bill, the move comes amid pressure to expand access to digital health technology across hospitals and out-of-hospital care.

Despite initiatives to mainstream telemedicine use on a national scale, administrative barriers remain high. Reimbursement of telemedicine is regulated under very strict conditions and patients lack awareness on how and where to access these services. With telemonitoring still under experimentation, teleconsultation and tele-expertise are reimbursed under common law.

### Teleconsultation

Patients can access online GP consultations for chronic conditions such as kidney and blood diseases or diabetes



### Tele-expertise

Doctors can access an online ophthalmologist's expertise for patients with type 2 diabetes



## What does this mean for the healthcare system?

A significant number of pilot projects have been launched to promote telemonitoring across the country for a period of four years.

### Telemonitoring

Funded by the French Social Security Fund, the experiment brings telemonitoring for patients with chronic and long-term conditions. The monitoring includes heart conditions, diabetes,

respiratory diseases, renal dysfunction and follow-up of implanted artificial heart valves.



#### REFERENCES

1. Ameli (2019) <https://www.ameli.fr/assure/actualites/premiere-bougie-pour-la-t-veleconsultation>
2. Minister of Health (2019), <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/soins-et-maladies/prises-en-charge-specialisees/telemedecine/article/la-telemedecine>
3. Minister of Health (2019), <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/soins-et-maladies/prises-en-charge-specialisees/telemv-vedecine/article/etapes-experimentations-de-telemedecine-pour-l-amelioration-des-parcours-en>
4. Minister of Health (2019), <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/soins-et-maladies/prises-en-charge-specialisees/telemedecine/article/etapes-experimentations-de-telemedecine-pour-l-amelioration-des-parcours-en>

For more discussion, see the [French Health Insurance Fund webpage on telemedicine reimbursement](#)

