

An Evaluation of Correctional Telemedicine

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Alternative medical practices are needed in today's growing correctional health care market. Telemedicine is an emerging technology which allows a medical specialist in one location to use a televised, two-way communication system to provide diagnosis or consultation for an inmate who never leaves the secure confines of a prison. Correctional agencies in both Florida and Texas currently using Telemedicine were examined as a part of this research. A review of existing literature and the identification of strengths and weaknesses of Telemedicine systems are discussed. This research indicates that Telemedicine can provide a viable alternative to current methods of delivery of medical services in correctional settings. The potential for other applications of this technology also warrant consideration.