

# Healthcare provider

A health care provider is a person or [company](#) that provides a health care service to you. In other words, your health care provider takes care of you. The term “health care provider” is sometimes incorrectly used to refer to a health insurance plan, but health insurance is different from health care.

[Telemedicine](#) has many patient-centered benefits, demonstrating that for certain elective subspecialty clinics, telemedicine may be utilized as the preferred method for surgical consultations. However, to ensure the equitable adoption and advancement of telemedicine services, [healthcare providers](#) will need to focus on mitigating the socioeconomic barriers to telemedicine participation <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Zhu J, Lois AW, Gitonga B, Chen-Meekin JY, Williams EJ, Khandelwal S, Carrera Ceron R, Oelschlager BK, Wright AS. The impact of socioeconomic status on telemedicine utilization during the COVID-19 pandemic among surgical clinics at an academic tertiary care center. Surg Endosc. 2022 Mar 24. doi: 10.1007/s00464-022-09186-x. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35332387.

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