

Telehealth / Telemedicine

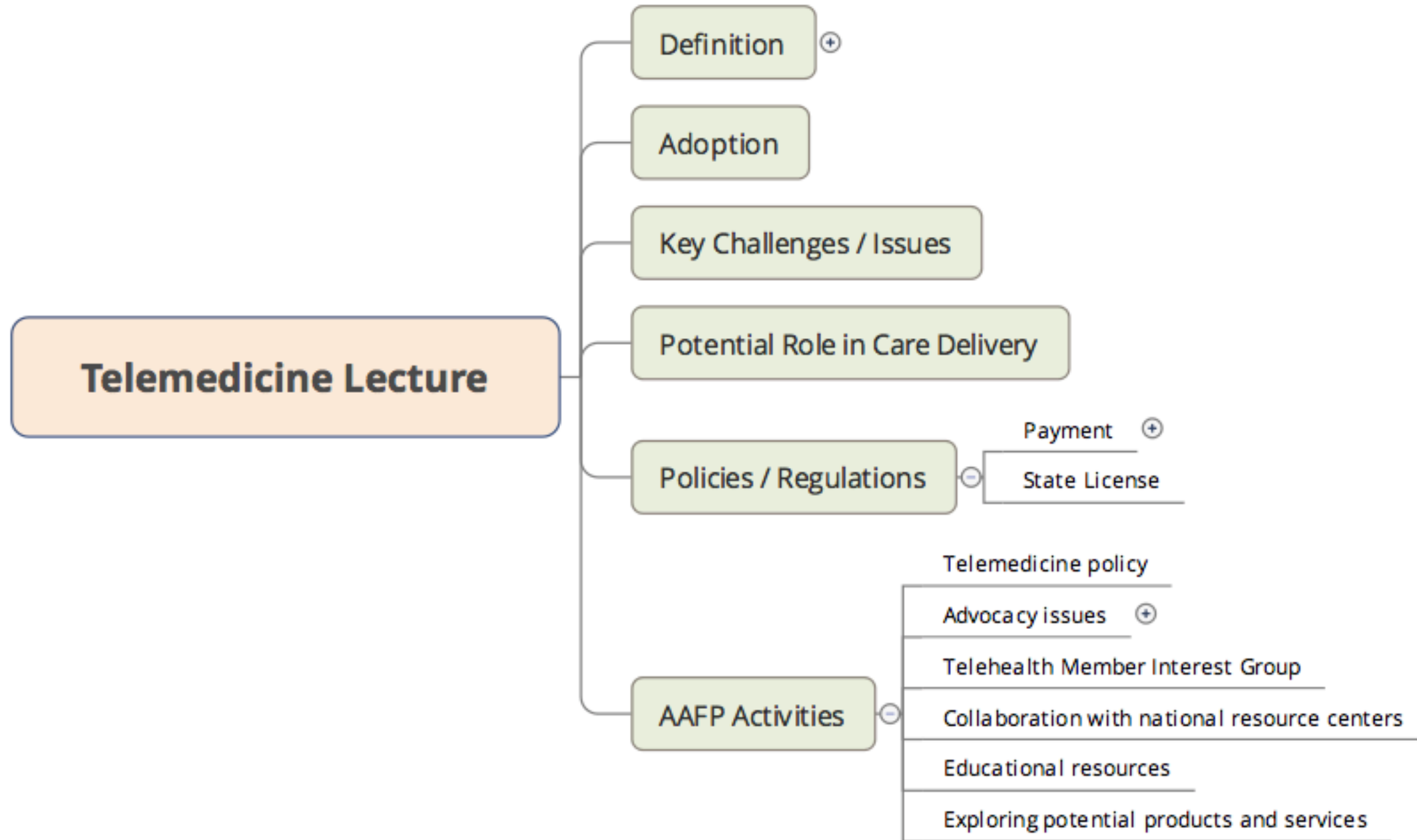
the not too distant

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS



Definitions

Telemedicine - the practice of medicine using technology to deliver care at a distance, over a telecommunications infrastructure, between a patient at an originating (spoke) site and a physician, or other practitioner licensed to practice medicine, at a distant (hub) site.

Telehealth - a broad collection of electronic and telecommunications technologies and services that support at-a-distance healthcare delivery and services. Telehealth technologies and tactics support virtual medical, health and education services.

Source: <http://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/telemedicine.html>

Adoption

- Telemedicine and telehealth have been growing at a greater than linear rate for the last few years.
- Emergence of direct to consumer, telemedicine only offerings have seen exponential growth
- Private practice adoption in family medicine is growing but was only 15% in 2015 Robert Graham Center study



Key Challenges & Issues

- Practice adoption
 - Training / Education
 - Reimbursement
 - Capital & operational costs
 - Potential liability issues
- Complexity of regulations and payment rules
- Disruption of continuity of care

Potential Role in Care

- Improved access
- Improved continuity of care
- Improved care coordination
- Reduced cost of care delivery
- Patient convenience

Payment Policy

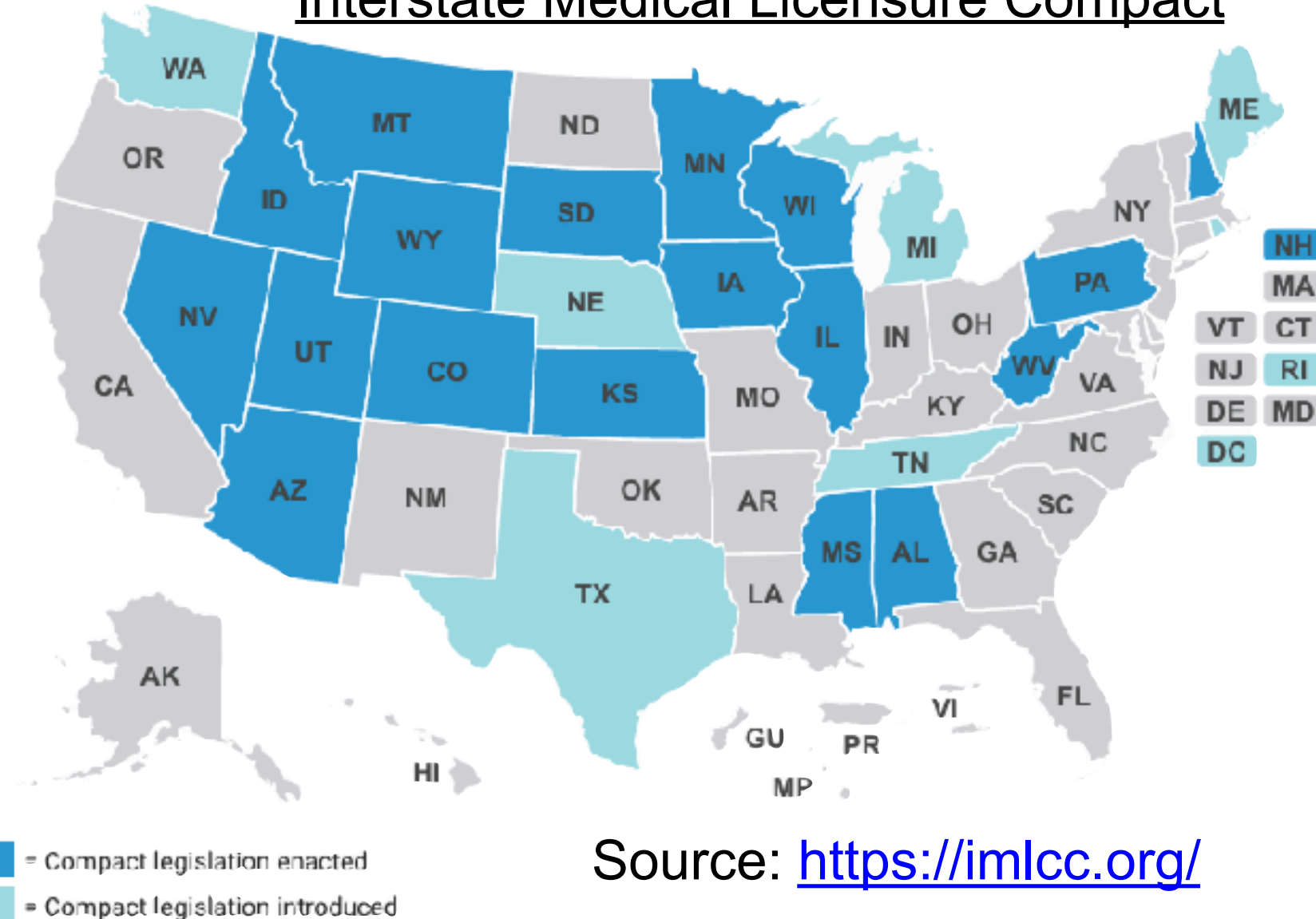
Fee for Service

Value Based
Payment

Regulations

- State based laws
 - Licensure
 - Payment policy
- Medicare payment policy

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact



AAFP Telehealth Activities

- Recently revised telehealth policy
<http://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/telemedicine.html>
- Advocacy issues
 - Support of continuity of care and care coordination
 - Appropriateness of telemedicine delivery
 - Adequate payment
- Telehealth Member Interest Group (MIG)
- Collaboration with National Telemedicine Resource Centers
<http://www.telehealthresourcecenter.org/>
- Development of educational resources in telehealth
- Exploring potential new products and services in telehealth
- FMX - CME Presentation and Office of the Future