

# Utilizing a Telehealth Digital Clinic in a Rural Interprofessional Simulation

## Identified Gaps

- Limited information addressing curriculum in telehealth delivery focused on Advanced Practice Nurses (Rutledge et al., 2017).
- Educational programs in telehealth for all healthcare providers and students.
- Addressing patient-provider relationships over telehealth technology (HRSA, 2015).
- Students have limited communication with providers during in hospital clinical rotations.
- References available upon request

## Objectives

- Objective #1
  - Describe how telehealth technologies can improve interprofessional teamwork and communication.
- Objective #2
  - Identify ways a telehealth digital clinic could enhanced interprofessional education or practices at your own institution.
- Objective #3
  - Demonstrate how telehealth technology can eliminate barriers related to the rural dwellers and access to care.

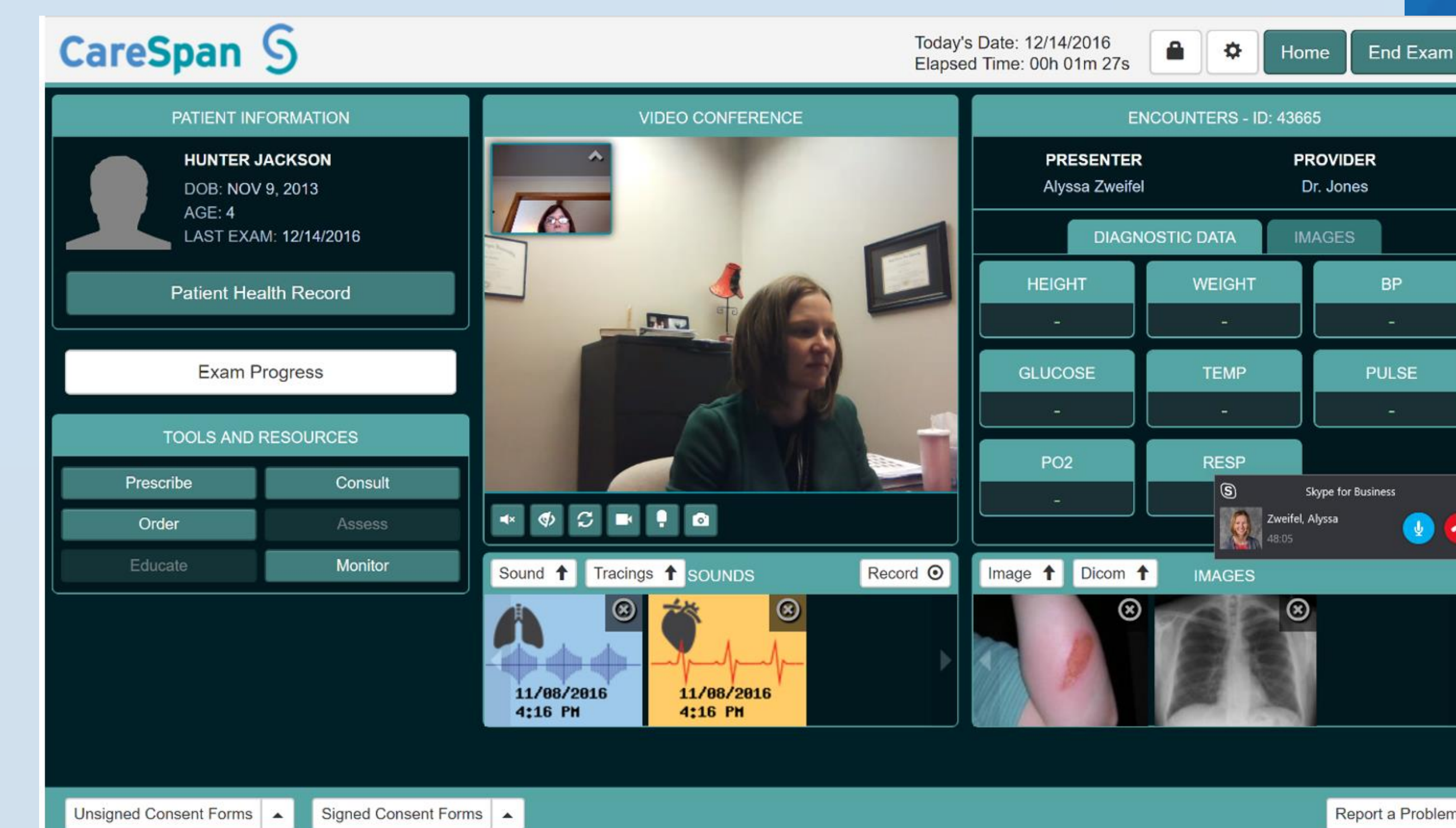
## Current State

- Rural areas have barrier related to distance, cost, weather, and access to healthcare providers. Telehealth technologies can help decrease these barriers (Rutledge et al., 2017).
- Many faculty have limited knowledge in telehealth modalities and are not fluent with the telehealth equipment to teach their students effectively.
- Quality of life for rural residents is enhanced by having providers skilled in the latest methodology in the provision of care to rural and frontier areas.



## Digital Clinic Simulation

- The simulation-enhanced interprofessional education (Sim-IPE) INACSL Standards of Best Practice guidelines were used to create a telehealth digital clinic simulation.
- Undergraduate nursing students utilized the telehealth digital clinic to contact the “NP provider” during already scheduled simulations throughout their curriculum.
- Nurse Practitioner students in their last semester of the program took the telehealth digital clinical calls, simulating the provider role.
- Objectives of the simulation were focused on interprofessional teamwork and communication.



## Student Feedback

- NP Graduate student feedback: “The digital health clinic connection was good, chart was easy to navigate, and the vital signs were easily displayed on the screen”, “I feel that having a few simulations of this type would be beneficial for the undergraduate and graduate students”.
- Undergraduate student feedback: “Easier to understand how rural telehealth works”, “Felt real and was beneficial”, “Was more real life than the instructor taking a phone call”, “Beneficial to practice the SBAR format”.