

Pros and cons of telemedicine in critical care**Why implement telemedicine?**

- Improve quality of care and patient safety
- Enhance hospital reputation for quality and innovation
- Achieve reported benefits, e.g., lower mortality, fewer ICU days
- Allow coverage of more patients
- Promotion of relationship with smaller, remote hospitals

Negatives

- Costs high and not reimbursed
- Does not reduce staffing needs
- System software does not synchronize with hospital information technology
- Hard to determine impact

Why not implement telemedicine?

- Value of face-to-face communication
- Belief that distant monitoring could lead to over-treatment
- Need to maintain on-site staff 24/7 for procedures, housestaff supervision
- Increased staffing needs — to cover eICU
- Benefits do not justify up-front and ongoing costs