

## **Global TeleHealth Connect: Concept Note**

Joint proposal of contribution by Teleheal UK and BAPIO/BTA

### **Teleheal international telemedicine charity:**

Teleheal is an international non-profit organisation, and a fully registered charity in the UK, that enables doctors in low resource countries to consult with expert clinicians from across the world by using everyday technology such as smartphones and laptops combined with commonly used platforms (e.g. Zoom, Skype, Viber, WhatsApp), via instant messaging, phone call and video chat: [www.arianteleheal.com](http://www.arianteleheal.com)

Teleheal has been recognised for its pioneering and philanthropic work with the UNESCO Award, Rotary International Peace Award and UK Prime Minister's Award. Teleheal is strictly non-profit, non-political and non-religious humanitarian organisation that operates mainly through volunteers.

Teleheal is led by Dr Waheed Arian who serves as the WHO Digital Health Expert, UN Stop TB Global Ambassador, UN Global Goals advocate in collaboration with the Gates Foundation, and National Health Service (NHS) Innovation Mentor. More information about Dr Arian can be found online. One link is: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waheed\\_Arian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waheed_Arian)

### **BAPIO:**

British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin is a voluntary organisation and one of the largest bodies representing 60000 doctors of Indian Origin in the UK. BAPIO in the UK has collaboration with Health Education England, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, University of South Wales and numerous NHS Trusts and through its arm length body BTA has established Indo UK training courses and has been running training days at AIIMS Rishikesh and Pandit BD Sharma University Rohtak to promote professional excellence.

One of the important pillars of BAPIO is charitable work and has been involved in flood relief and support to disaster regions in India and other parts of the world.

### **Covid-19 in India:**

India is now in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic, with total of 9,932,547 cases (2nd in the world) and 144,09 deaths on 16.12.2020. Despite the sterling efforts of government agencies and medical profession, the disease is spreading, and with rise in hospital admissions has put immense pressure on the system, the problem compounded by accessibility and availability of beds and medical expertise, especially in rural and semi-rural areas. Indian doctors living abroad feel it is their duty to help their motherland and are prepared to be part of any charitable venture.

### **Covid-19 humanitarian response cooperation:**

BAPIO/BTA and Teleheal organisations have qualified and experienced specialist volunteers from intensive care, acute medicine, emergency medicine, infectious disease, radiology, psychiatry, psychology and other specialties. They work in the UK, US and Canada hospitals as senior clinical specialists. They also have experience in managing hundreds of Covid-19 patients, including their ventilation.

In partnership with AIIMS Rishikesh, Teleheal and BAPIO can provide the following support layers, which can be adjusted as per requirements:

1. WHO guidelines, continuously updated and interpreted by experts
2. Educational webinars for all Covid-19 related topics and virtual e-rounds to discuss Covid-19 cases

These two support mechanisms can be actioned immediately using Zoom, Skype and/ or WhatsApp groups, which can include colleagues from Teleheal, BAPIO, AIIMS Rishikesh and local practitioners.

3. Specialist virtual advice from experts on 24/7 basis, 7 days a week, for any questions, including case management
4. Ensuring availability of generic medicines along with point of care diagnostics for common investigations
5. Establishing, strengthening and scaling digital health solutions nationally, especially, to reach the most under-privileged and remote regions

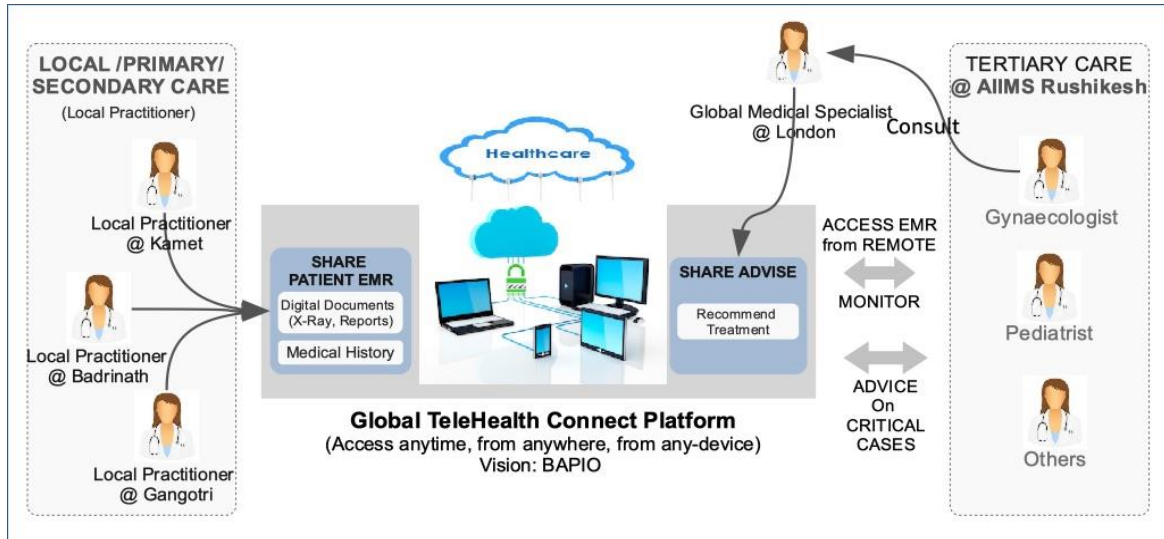
These last two support mechanisms can be actioned using the following global TeleHealth Connect Platform vision:

**Project Title:** Global TeleHealth Connect with Remote Indian Primary Care Doctors  
**Project model:** Hub & spoke model AIIMS Rishikesh as central hub with spokes in districts of State

## Global TeleHealth Connect Platform: Vision

### What is the vision?

The vision is to maximise the internet technologies to bridge the gap between local practitioner seeking critical medical advice to treat his patient and global specialist willing to provide his specialist knowledge through global TeleHealth Connect Platform (TCP). The platform will enable collaboration between medial practitioner enabling saving precious life within shortest possible time and cost without the need for travel.



### Why do we need it?

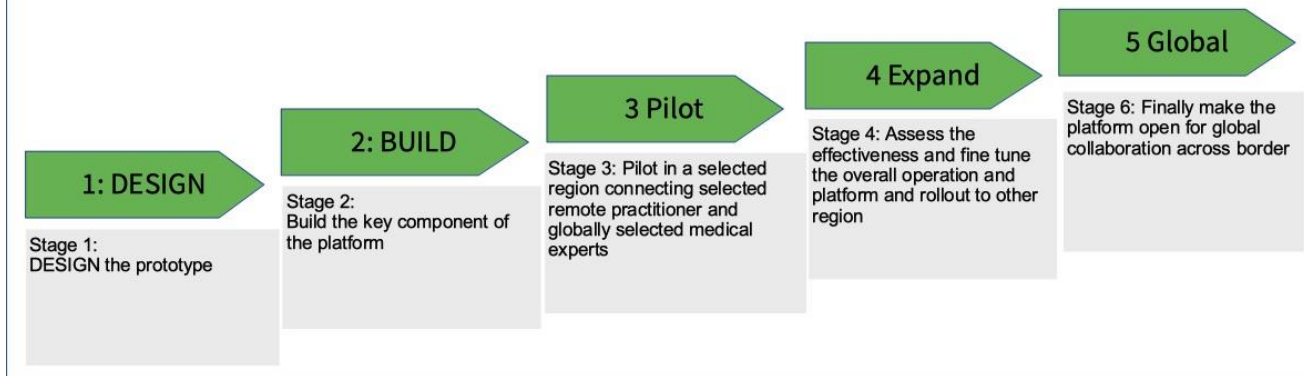
- In a critical condition, patients' life is at risk and correct diagnosis and timely advise by global medical specialist can help the treating local practitioner provide correct course of treatment saving many lives.
- It will serve as a secure, accessible and legitimate platform minimising delay in getting the required medical advice during initial stage of a critical condition and increase survival chances.
- Patients travel from remote location to the established healthcare facility in a big city can take few hours and in such case chances of survival reduces with every passing mins.
- The timely treatment at first site will make a big different between life and death.
- Building a support model for local practitioner with global support will improve community healthcare services.

### How can we do it?

- The local medical practitioner connected with the platform will do initial diagnosis and capture medical note within few minutes of patient's arrival and share it on platform for advice.
- The global medical specialist connected with the platform receives the request as a notification on APP. He will view the EMR and provide advice or do video consultation if need be.
- The local medical practitioner will receive advice as a notification on APP and within few minutes, take a decisive immediate course of treatment saving patient life.

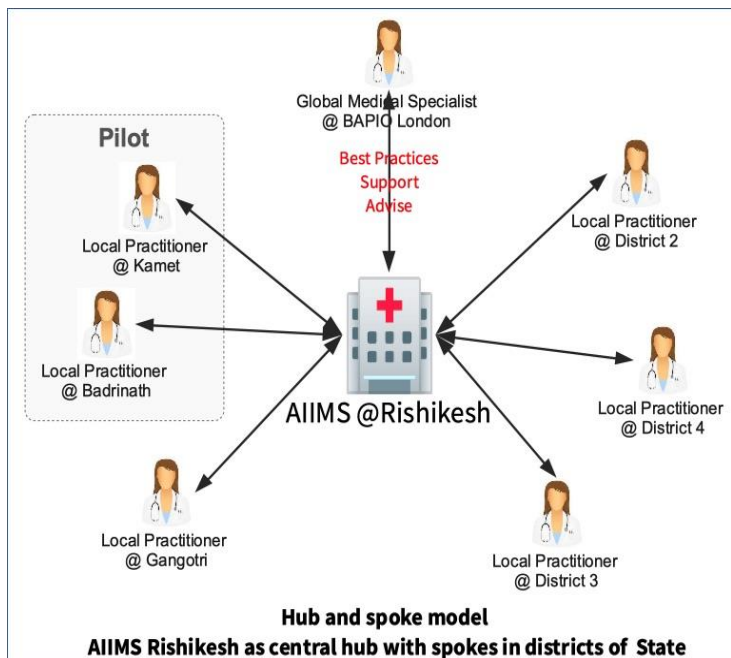
## Roadmap

5 Stage Approach to establish **Global TeleHealth Connect Platform** for healthcare collaboration across borders.



### Scenario 1: Case Study:

AIIMS Rishikesh will serve as a hub of medical specialist will be the center of the 100 KM radius of region, and Badrinath being the remote location. A local practitioner from Badrinath can seek advice from medical specialist from AIIMS at Rishikesh.



- Attached local practitioner at Badrinath dealing with the critical case
- Struggle to diagnose due to lack of specialist skills or need immediate advice to start the effective treatment
- He/ she immediately shares the patient EMR on platform and seek remote advise
- Attached medical specialist from AIIMS views the EMR and if need be collaborates with BAPIOs pool of Global Medical Specialist and provide an effective advise on next course of treatment
- Attached medical practitioner at Badrinath. He/ she acts on the advice and stabilises patient's condition

### What are the short and long term goals?

#### Short-term:

- Increase the chances of survival of critical medical condition
- Increase the availability of global expertise for accurate diagnosis and effective timely treatment
- Minimise the need for travel from remote location increase the chances of survival
- Reduce the cost of treatment for economically low resource region

#### Mid-term:

- Improve the knowledge of local practitioner to provide more critical care with global support

#### Long-term:

- Facilitate collaboration and research across border at global scale on critical medical scenarios like COVID-19

- Maximise on the BAPIOs reach to drive ahead with the mission to transform social healthcare across border.
- Enable BAPIO's 60,000+ global medical specialists to offer critical medical expertise and serve the motherland.

#### Who are the key stakeholders?

- Teleheal
- BAPIO and attached Global medical specialist
- Large medical facility of a region ex. AIIMS
- Local practitioner
- Corporate with CSR
- NGOS & State governments

#### What is our next step?

- Validate the vision note
- Prepare the details of implementation plan. The first two support mechanisms below can be immediately activated to start humanitarian cooperation response to Covid-19 through partnership between Teleheal, BAPIO, AIIMS Rishikesh and local practitioners, using simple day to day technology – Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp groups:
  - WHO guidelines, continuously updated and interpreted by experts
  - Educational webinars for all Covid-19 related topics and virtual e-rounds to discuss Covid-19 cases

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