



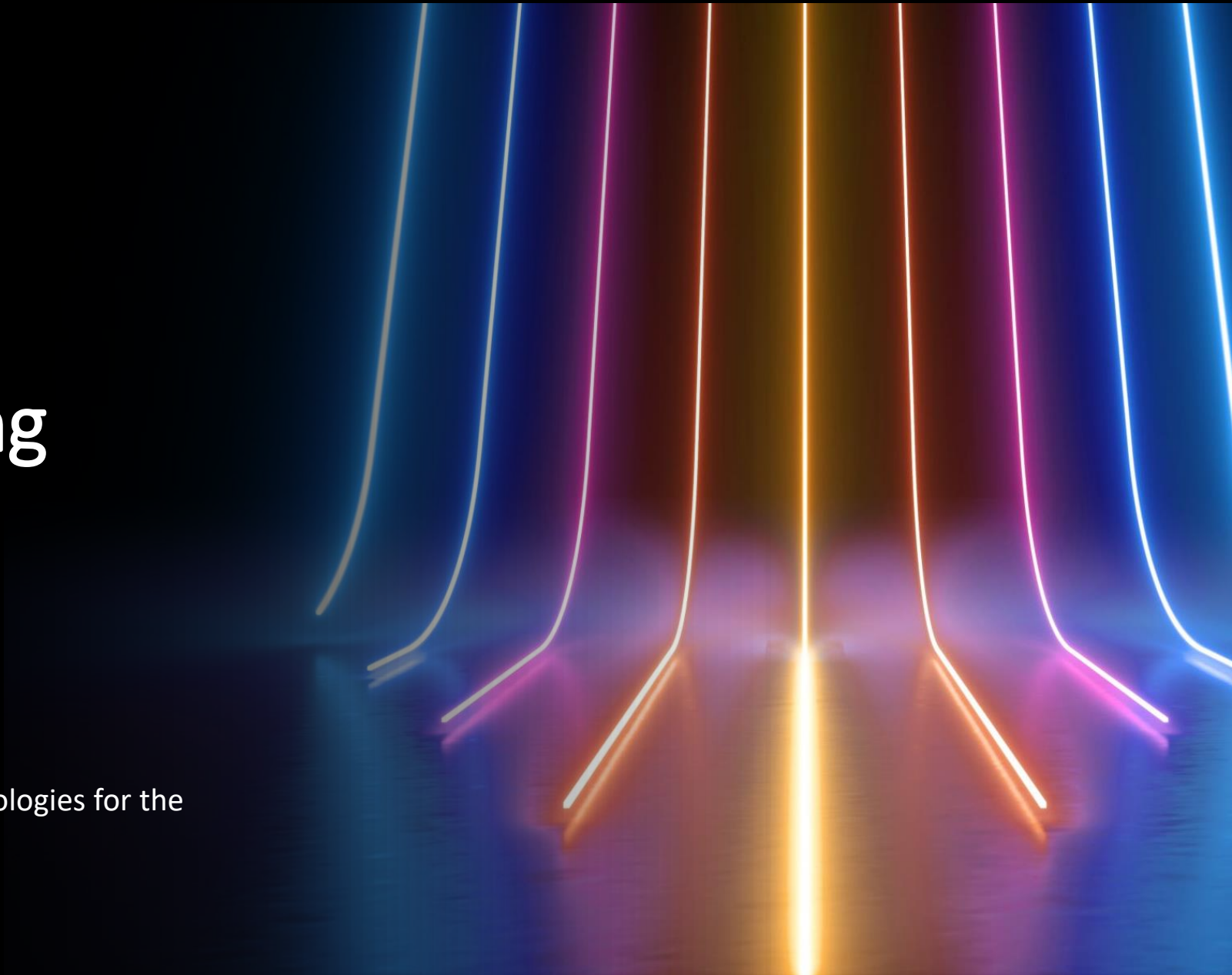
Global and Public Health Resource Allocation in the Context of Emerging Technologies

Carlos OCKÉ-REIS (Brazil)

Applied Economic Research Institute (IPEA)

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Introduction

Humanity is dealing with many crises: war, climate change and the failure to meet basic needs

The global pandemic had a huge impact on societies and welfare provision

In particular, the demand for public health services have attracted the attention of many countries in the global south

Introduction

This panel aims to discuss the ongoing digital transformation of public healthcare systems (information technology inside the NBIC)

I would like to discuss the extent to which emerging technologies may or may not favor the improvement of the quality of healthcare services

Introduction

Digital innovations in the field of communications and information can improve the management of health care services

It is understandable the euphoria surrounding healthtechs - not only in wealthy countries - but also in developing countries in the global south

It is worth saying factors like population size, national income per capita, funding public health care and aging are relevant to the drive to promote digital health

Digital Health
has Become a
Reality



Digital Health has Become a Reality

Digital health saves lives, reduces inequalities of access, eliminates queues, decreases coverage gaps, as well as integrate primary care with specialized care and the diagnostic medicine sector

Despite these high expectations, it is not clear what is going to happen with the level of public health resources in the global south

In Brazil, there were 7.5 million remote consultations between 2020 and 2021 by about 52,200 doctors

Chart 1 - Show the growth in the supply of online consulting and online diagnosis services, with an increase of 11 and 8 percentage points (p.p.) between 2019 and 2021

Chart 2 - In this same period, indicates an increase in the supply of remote monitoring services for patients in different categories of health facilities (except for diagnosis and therapy support service)

Gráfico 1 – OFERTA DE SERVIÇOS DE TELESSAÚDE POR ESTABELECIMENTOS DE SAÚDE QUE UTILIZARAM A INTERNET (%)

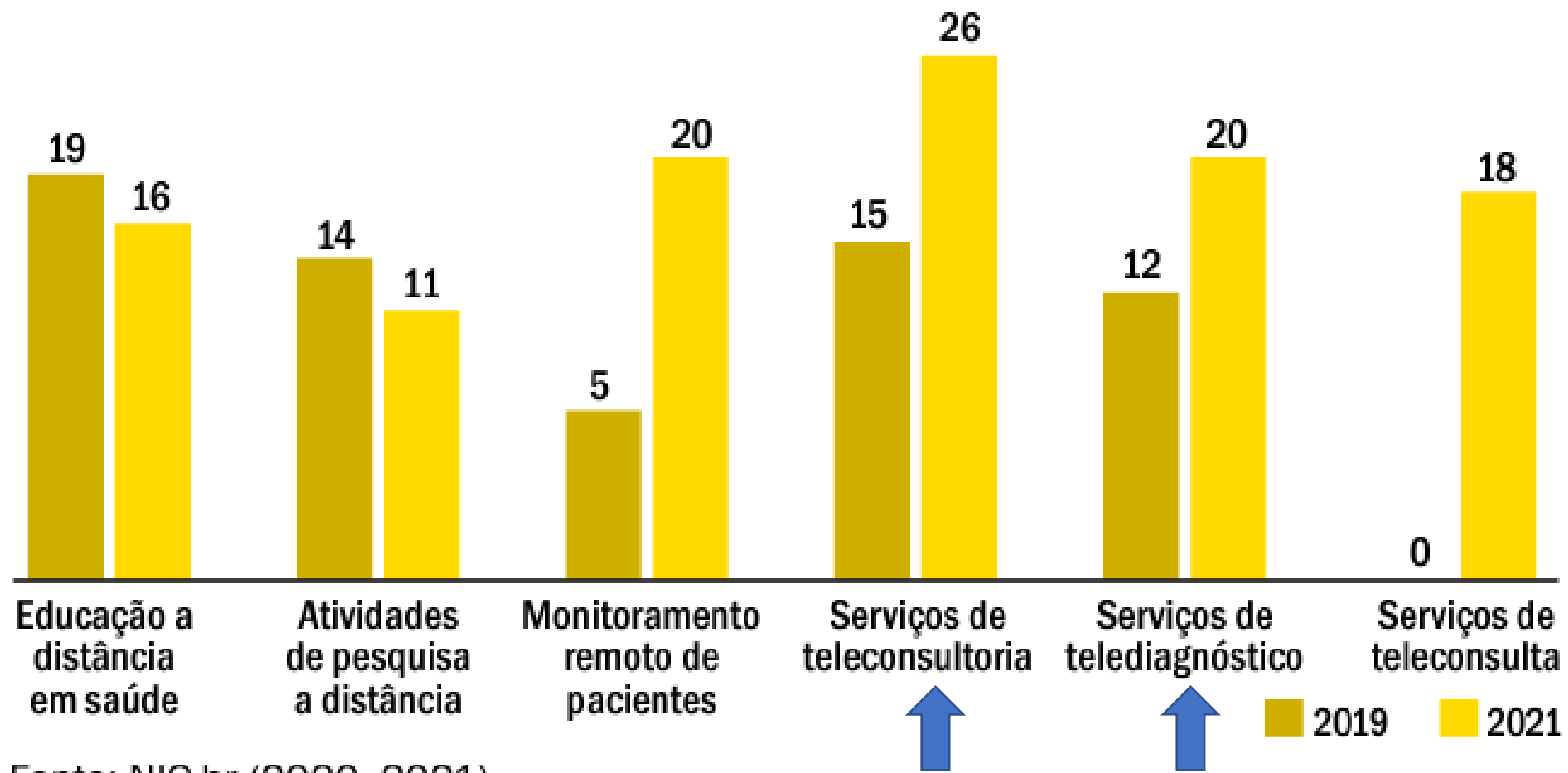


Gráfico 2 – OFERTA DE SERVIÇO DE MONITORAMENTO REMOTO DE PACIENTES POR ESTABELECIMENTOS DE SAÚDE QUE UTILIZARAM A INTERNET (%)



Fonte: NIC.br (2020, 2021).

Digital Health has Become a Reality

In lower-middle-income countries, governments are seeking ways to improve health care budgets while achieving greater economies of scale and scope in health care delivery

 **The introduction of digital health could ease this challenge**

The Controversy between Productivity and Quality in E-health

The introduction of emerging technologies could replace healthcare professionals or cutbacks in healthcare networks, causing a negative impact on the quality

Despite the technological transformations resulting from digital health, there is nothing to indicate until now that productivity will increase without damaging the efficacy and effectiveness, especially in the global south

The Controversy between Productivity and Quality in E-health

On one hand, the introduction of digital health seems to increase productivity; on the other hand, quality is often associated with the quantity of labor employed in the medical practice

This situation can produce an inverse relationship between quality and labor productivity, especially if we value primary health care, which advocates increasing the average time of medical assistance

If the productivity growth resulting from the technological transformation can reduce the cost in some cases, I believe that it is still necessary to strengthen public health systems by increasing funding so as not to lose quality

Conclusions

1. New information and communication technologies in the health sector play a significant role in promoting socio-economic and cultural development in modern societies

2. However, health policy analysts are aware that inequalities of access to emerging technologies is an issue to the further growth of e-health and the global common good

3. It remains to be seen whether these emerging technologies imply an improvement in the quality of healthcare, as well as in clinical and epidemiological indicators to meet the public's health care needs

Conclusions

4. In this direction, digital health needs to be supported by specific regulatory oversight in order to enable its sustainable development (to avoid fake doctors: people who pretend to be legitimate medical providers)

5. Having an idyllic view of health innovations may be inappropriate, as they will certainly not be a panacea to solve all the problems faced by the healthcare systems



Thank you

carlos.ocke@ipea.gov.br