

## **Practice Test 15**

### **READING SUB-TEST – PART C**

In this part of the test, here are two texts about different aspects of healthcare. Choose the answer (**A, B, C, or D**) that you think fits best according to the text.

#### **Paragraph 1**

Telemedicine has emerged as a significant development in contemporary healthcare, enabling patients to consult healthcare professionals remotely through digital platforms. Its rapid expansion has been driven not only by increasing demand for accessible services but also by technological advancements and pressures on healthcare systems to improve efficiency. While it is often promoted as a solution to access-related challenges, its integration into routine care remains complex. Questions persist regarding how effectively it can be incorporated without compromising quality. As a result, its role continues to evolve within modern healthcare frameworks.

#### **Paragraph 2**

Telemedicine involves a range of communication technologies, including video consultations, mobile applications, and remote monitoring devices that allow clinicians to assess and manage patients without direct physical contact. These tools offer flexibility and convenience; however, they may also introduce limitations in clinical accuracy. In particular, the absence of physical examination can restrict the clinician's ability to identify certain conditions. Although technological innovations attempt to address these gaps, they do not fully replicate in-person assessment. Consequently, clinical judgment remains essential when determining its appropriateness.

#### **Paragraph 3**

One of the most widely recognised advantages of telemedicine is its potential to improve access to healthcare, especially for individuals in rural or underserved areas. Patients with mobility issues or chronic illnesses may also benefit from reduced travel requirements. Nevertheless, access to telemedicine itself is not universal, as it depends on factors such as digital literacy, availability of reliable internet, and socioeconomic status. These barriers may limit its effectiveness in certain populations. Therefore, while telemedicine can enhance access, it may also unintentionally widen existing inequalities.

#### **Paragraph 4**

Telemedicine may also contribute to increased convenience and efficiency within healthcare systems. Appointments can often be scheduled more flexibly, and waiting times may be reduced, which can improve patient satisfaction. From an organisational perspective, reduced patient congestion in healthcare facilities may allow better allocation of resources. However, these benefits are not consistently observed across all settings, as outcomes may depend on how telemedicine is implemented. Variations in infrastructure and staff training can influence its effectiveness. As such, efficiency gains should not be assumed to be universal.

#### **Paragraph 5**

Despite its advantages, telemedicine has notable limitations that restrict its use in certain clinical situations. Conditions requiring physical examination, diagnostic procedures, or immediate intervention cannot be adequately managed through remote consultation alone. For this reason, telemedicine is generally viewed as a complement to traditional healthcare rather than a replacement. In more complex or acute cases, face-to-face interaction remains essential. This highlights the importance of selecting appropriate cases for telemedicine use. Failure to do so may compromise patient outcomes.

#### **Paragraph 6**

Concerns regarding data security and patient privacy are also significant in telemedicine practice. The use of digital platforms increases the risk of unauthorised access to sensitive medical information, particularly if systems lack adequate protection. Maintaining confidentiality is therefore a critical responsibility for healthcare providers. In addition, patients may have concerns about how their data is stored and used. Addressing these issues requires robust security measures and clear communication. Without such safeguards, trust in telemedicine may be undermined.

#### **Paragraph 7**

Research into the effectiveness of telemedicine has produced mixed findings, reflecting the complexity of its application. Some studies report improved outcomes, particularly in the management of chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. However, other research indicates that these benefits may not extend to more complex cases. Differences in study design and patient populations further complicate interpretation. As a result, conclusions regarding its overall effectiveness remain uncertain. This highlights the need for ongoing evaluation and evidence-based practice.

### **Paragraph 8**

Healthcare professionals have expressed differing opinions regarding the role of telemedicine in clinical practice. While some view it as an essential tool for improving healthcare delivery, others remain cautious due to its limitations. Concerns often relate to clinical accuracy, patient safety, and the potential for over-reliance on technology. These differing perspectives reflect broader uncertainty about its long-term role. As telemedicine continues to evolve, professional attitudes may also change. However, consensus has not yet been fully established.

### **Paragraph 9**

Governments and healthcare organisations have increasingly integrated telemedicine into healthcare systems through policy development and strategic planning. Guidelines have been introduced to support clinical use, ensure quality of care, and protect patient data. However, the success of these initiatives depends largely on effective implementation and resource availability. In some cases, policies exist but are not fully applied in practice. This gap between policy and implementation can limit the impact of telemedicine. Addressing this issue remains a key challenge.

### **Paragraph 10**

Looking ahead, telemedicine is likely to continue developing as technology advances and healthcare demands evolve. However, its future role will depend on how effectively current challenges are addressed, including issues related to access, security, and clinical limitations. While it offers clear potential benefits, its use must be carefully managed to ensure patient safety and quality of care. A balanced approach that integrates telemedicine with traditional healthcare is likely to be most effective. Ultimately, its success will depend on thoughtful and evidence-based application.