The "Essentials" detail the necessary information for the safe, competent practice of telehealth nursing. It includes topics essential for nurses new to telehealth practice, experienced in telehealth and for those interested in expanding their knowledge base.

The concept for this book was developed from the Telehealth Nursing Practice Core Course (TNPCC) manual by the American Academy of Ambulatory Nursing (AAACN). When the TNPCC manual was written in 2001, it was not known that the TNPCC would have such sustainability over nearly a decade of telehealth nursing practice. Over the years, there have been considerable changes in telehealth practice. Roles have expanded and evolved from telephone triage. A myriad of telecommunication devices are used for the encounter: the nurse-patient interaction. Roles include telehealth triage, consultation, follow-up and monitoring. Although roles have evolved, the patient remains the center of focus. The patient expects the care and the nurse is the provider of care. No matter what the telehealth setting, nurses reading this book should be able to identify issues relative to their particular situation and apply the information in order to enhance practice.

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