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**Sustaining Care: Addressing Workforce Shortages with Ethical Technological Integration**

**Summary:**

The current staffing shortage in home health, home care, and long-term care (LTC) facilities is significantly impacting the quality and availability of care for individuals who rely on these services. This shortage has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has increased the demand for services while simultaneously causing many healthcare workers to leave the profession due to burnout or health concerns. As a result, patients are experiencing longer wait times for services, reduced access to essential care, and increased pressure on family members who often step in as informal caregivers. This situation is particularly challenging for the elderly and those with chronic conditions who depend on consistent, in-home medical support.

We are increasingly utilizing technology to address workforce shortages. Telehealth services, automation tools and AI-driven systems can assist in assessments, monitoring patient conditions, scheduling, medication management, and even in providing companionship to patients through virtual assistants. This session will address the current state of the workforce shortage, discuss these how these new tools including an innovative robot program are currently being used, and share ethical concerns, stressing we use these technological solutions to complement rather than replace human interactions.

**Learning Objectives:**

* Attendees will be able to identify and explain the primary factors contributing to the current shortage in home health, home care, and LTC workforce.
* Participants will gain knowledge of various technological innovations designed to alleviate the workforce shortage.
* Audience members will critically assess the ethical implications associated with the use of technology in these varied environments.