

Medicaid is now Reimbursing for Telemedicine!

Medicaid announced telemedicine coverage for the state of Indiana on March 28th

The work of many telemedicine advocates paid off this month. On May 1st, Indiana will join 27 states who currently reimburse for medical services provided by telemedicine. Greg Beck, who has been working toward Medicaid reimbursement since 2003, stated, "The announcement by the Indiana Medicaid office officially validates the practice of telemedicine and will allow providers to be reimbursed for virtual visits. The state has not only realized that this technology can be used to maintain the same level of high quality healthcare, but can also enable substantial cost savings by avoiding unnecessary transportation."

Pam Whitten, Ph.D with the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering is another proponent of telemedicine. She headed up a working group of telemedicine advocates this past fall. A detailed policy report, "Telemedicine in Indiana" was created. [Click Here](#) to read this report.

Sleep Disorders Clinic launched in Bedford!

Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Yang have completed their first telemedicine clinics.

"Thanks to Bedford Regional Medical Center's (BRMC) continuing partnership with Clarian Health Partners it has become easier to bring big city, specialized medical care to small town Bedford Indiana. The Sleep Disorders Center is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM). This accreditation requires BRMC to offer the very best in sleep testing techniques, and technology. The AASM mandates that BRMC have physicians board certified in sleep medicine to diagnose, interpret sleep studies, and treat our patients in our clinic.



(Dr. Yang preparing to see a patient)



(Dr. Sullivan listening to heart and lung sounds from Bedford)

In the past, patients were required to drive to Indianapolis for this level of care. Since 2002, our patients have no longer needed to drive to Indianapolis. Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Yang began to see patients, one or two days a month in the Sleep Disorders Center. However, with a busy schedule in Indianapolis it was very difficult to get our patients seen on a timely basis. Our solution was to bring the patients and the Sleep Specialists together via telemedicine. Telemedicine has allowed us to increase the number of days patients are seen in the sleep clinic. Patients are now receiving treatment quicker, and it has saved the physicians drive time. In other words, thanks to telemedicine everyone involved is getting the rest they deserve."

*Gloria Stewart , RRT, RPSGT
BRMC Sleep Disorder Center*

[Click Here](#) to learn more about the BRMC Sleep Disorder Center



Dr. Wooden Performs Our First Plastic Surgery Consult

Dr. Wooden recently joined the Indiana School of Medicine, Division of Plastic Surgery from North Carolina. Although this was Dr. Wooden's first telemedicine patient in Indiana, he has completed many telemedicine visits in North Carolina.

Dr. Wooden, a long time advocate of telemedicine, stated, "Telemedicine is not new technology but one that is gaining greater recognition and reutilization of its potential by Physicians, Patients and Insurance Carriers. The availability and integrations of high speed internet and camera cell phones into our personal lives has helped take telemedicine from the realm of science fiction to that of reality and expectation. Telemedicine has real time applications across vast distances, as well as within the walls of our own medical center. It does require hardware, software, appropriate patients, understanding medical care teams, and support from the medical center and insurance industry.



(Dr. Wooden's first telemedicine consult in Indiana)

I believe that this technology has the capacity to save patients time away from home and work, money and the aggravation of a short evaluation after a long car ride....Like wise for the physicians a level of efficiency and opportunity to incorporate or support the local medical care team. Telemedicine can not fully replace the necessary "laying on of hands" but in today's world the opportunity to do so more efficiently and the virtual opportunity for specialty care and support from a far. A virtual, "digital laying on of hands."

*Dr. William Wooden
Indiana School of Medicine-Division of Plastic Surgery*

Counting the Consults

We have facilitated 756 cases and 249 live and interactive consults

Lutheran Hospital Presents at the Riley Tumor Board!

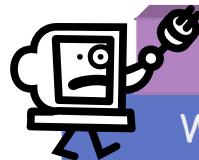
The tables were turned at the March 8th tumor board. Dr. Koh Boayue, and her team, presented from Ft. Wayne to the Riley Tumor Board in Indianapolis. This was accomplished by simply reversing the technology that currently allows Indianapolis to share radiology scans, pathology slides, and Powerpoint presentations. Lutheran was able to share their case information, radiology, and pathology information with the team at Riley.

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Check Us Out on the Web
www.clariantelemedicine.org



Tech Tip of the Month

When All Else Fails....

By. David Boyer

Sometimes you can't make a connection even though you have a network IP address. Sometimes the video doesn't look right even though you have redialed. Sometimes it just won't work in spite of everything you try. Power the machine off and turn it back on. Sometimes all your codec needs is a fresh start. This won't cure everything, but it only takes a few seconds to try.

Telemedicine Making a Difference

"The telemedicine program was a neat experience, never seen anything like it before."

Deaconess Hospital Mom



Clarian Health
Methodist | II