

Patient Informed Consent for Telemedicine Services

Telemedicine involves the use of electronic communications to enable healthcare providers at different locations to share individual patient medical information for the purpose of improving patient care. Providers may include primary care practitioners, specialists, sub specialists, employees, and subcontractors. The information may be used for diagnosis, therapy, follow-up and/or education, and may include any of the following:

- Patient medical records
- Medical images
- Live two-way audio and video
- Output data from medical devices and sound and video files

Electronic systems used will incorporate network and software security protocols to protect the confidentiality of patient identification and imaging data and will include measures to safeguard the data and to ensure its integrity against intentional or unintentional corruption. Responsibility for the patient care will remain with the patient's medical record.

Expected Benefits:

- Improved access to medical care by enabling a patient to remain in his/her local healthcare site (i.e. home) while the physician consults and obtains test results at distant/ other sites.
- More efficient medical evaluation and management.
- Obtaining expertise of a specialist.

Possible risks:

As with any medical procedure, there are potential risks associated with the use of telemedicine. These risks include, but may not be limited to:

- In rare cases, the consultant may determine that the transmitted information is of inadequate quality, thus necessitating a face to face meeting with the patient, or at least a rescheduled video consult.