



A Guide to Telemedicine

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As one of the nation's ten largest children's hospitals and pediatric research centers, Nationwide Children's Hospital is continuously in search of new and innovative methods to improve care for children and their families. Most recently, through a unique collaboration with Ohio Supercomputer Center, Nationwide Children's has been utilizing a progressive technology known as telemedicine to reach out to and better assist outlying hospitals. This advanced form of communication allows us to offer community hospitals quality, cost-effective care while improving outcomes for more patients.

What is telemedicine?

Telemedicine is defined as "medicine practiced at a distance." Utilized to provide expansion of specialized medical services to rural areas, telemedicine involves the use of electronic information and communications technologies to provide and support health care when distance separates the participants. Telemedicine enhances accessibility and communication between physicians through real-time video conferencing, allowing Nationwide Children's specialists to visually assess the patient and review diagnostic images and data in real time.

Benefits of telemedicine

With telemedicine capabilities, distance is not an issue, so you can feel confident that you will receive real-time access to expert diagnosis, consultation and monitoring that will help provide quick, cost-effective, quality care for your patients.

- :: Allows greater collaboration with Nationwide Children's specialists who can gain more comprehensive knowledge of a patient's case through a real-time video connection
- :: Expedited transport and placement of patients that require intensive or special care services
- :: Ability to provide remote assistance if a patient's condition suddenly worsens
- :: Improved likelihood of families being able to continue care at their home hospital
- :: Better control of medical expenses
- :: Allows for reverse rounding with the family's physicians, improving the continuity of care once a patient is discharged
- :: Education opportunities offered via teleconferencing
- :: Decrease out-migration of patients seeking specialty services

Partnering with technology

Through a partnership with Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC), Nationwide Children's has been able to establish the connectivity required to maximize telemedicine capabilities and has piloted the most up-to-date, high-definition equipment necessary for successful implementation.

OSCnet is a dedicated high-speed, fiber optic network that provides a 1,600-mile backbone for one of the most advanced, statewide research and education networks in the nation – encompassing nearly 100 institutes of higher education in Ohio. Through this collaboration, OSC provides optimum point-to-point connectivity to allow telemedicine and teleconferencing at Nationwide Children's to occur. Hospitals not connected through the OSC network may also participate through the internet.

Education

The Education Department at Nationwide Children's Hospital offers a wide variety of topics and technologies to help meet your hospital's professional and public pediatric education needs. Services available include online education and live teleconferenced activities. Please call Melissa Newton, Outreach Education Manager, at (614) 355-0659 and she will work with you to customize a collaborative education plan to meet the special needs of your institution.



For more information

At Nationwide Children's Hospital, our goal is to partner with community hospitals interested in pursuing telemedicine and to assist them in obtaining the connectivity and equipment required to implement this exciting, innovative service.

To learn more about the use of telemedicine at Nationwide Children's, or to find out how your hospital can partner with us, please contact:

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For more information and to see a video highlighting telemedicine at Nationwide Children's, visit us online at www.NationwideChildrens.org/Telemedicine.

ABOUT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Ranked in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2008 list of America's Best Pediatric Hospitals, Nationwide Children's Hospital is a collaborative environment that fosters forward thinking and innovation. The results of which lead to outstanding patient care across all departments and specialties, including advancements that have transformed how patients are cared for here and around the world. Our pursuit of scientific discovery generates equally significant results. In fact, The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's is among the top ten recipients of funding from the National Institutes of Health to freestanding pediatric research facilities. On average, Nationwide Children's receives more than 700,000 patient visits annually, yet stays true to the original mission established in 1892 of providing care regardless of a family's ability to pay.

NATIONAL PROMINENCE

- :: One of the five largest pediatric hospitals in the nation with 418 beds.
- :: One of only 12 hospitals nationally to be ranked in every subspecialty on the *U.S. News & World Report* 2008 list of America's Best Hospitals.
- :: Ranked 6th in the nation for overall pediatric care on *Parents* magazine's list of Top Children's Hospitals.
- :: First freestanding pediatric hospital in Ohio to receive Magnet recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center – the highest nursing award available.

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