WHY TELEHEALTH?

The Intersection of Health and Education

Our mission is to promote the health and academic success of children and youth by increasing access to school-based health care and support services.

ABC

Access to Health Care

Better Learners

Comprehensive Services
Grant Overview

- Grant awarded in September 2014 by the Georgia Partnership for Telehealth to operate rural school-based telehealth programs at Jones Wheat (JWE) and West Bainbridge Elementary (WBE)
- Billy Walker, CEO and Winston Price, M.D., Pediatric Chair, both of Memorial Hospital and Manor are the primary sponsors of the grant
- $60,000 of grant funds will support the establishment of the school telehealth clinics at JWE and WBE

[YouTube Video Link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNIWGLSNnro)
What is a School-Based Telehealth Clinic?

• Health clinics that will operate and function in the school nurses' office at designated schools
• Integration of services during school to help meet the minor health needs of students without having to be absent from school
• Team consists of school nurses, social workers, participating physicians, and school staff
• Students will have the opportunity to be seen by a physician virtually via a real-time computer linkage
• Written parent/guardian consent is required for a student to receive telehealth services
• All charges will be the responsibility of the parents and will be billed to insurance if applicable.
Telehealth Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC will meet quarterly and roles include:

- Guiding sustainability efforts
- Monitoring quality improvement objectives and goals of telehealth services at school-based clinics
- Marketing and promoting school-based health centers to the Decatur community
- Developing and sustaining community partnerships to ensure the needs of students and families are met at school-based clinics
How do students participate?

• Students must opt-in to participate in the program
• Enrollment Packet must be completed and returned to school-based clinics by legal guardian.

Packet includes the following items:
• Student Information Sheet
• Medical History Form
• Authorization to Bill Insurance
• Copy of Insurance Card(s)
• Lab and HIPPA Consent Form
• Telehealth consent and payment authorization form signed by legal guardian
What services will be offered through school based clinics?

- Care for acute illnesses (sore throat, earache, skin rash, etc.)
- Minor injuries (scratches and muscle strains)
- Management of ongoing care of existing medical conditions (asthma, sickle cell, diabetes)
- Monthly medication management/medication maintenance
- Lab tests (strep tests, flu screens, urine analysis)
- Access to physician specialists
How is a physician appointment scheduled?

- Students are referred to the nurse following currently established school procedures.
- If a child is seen by the nurse and is identified as needing a doctor’s appointment, the nurse will contact parents of enrolled students for permission to schedule a physician appointment.
- Parents can contact the school nurse and request an appointment be made for a child.
- Students must be at school on the day of scheduled appointment. However, student may not attend or remain at school if a fever is present or the medical condition is felt to be contagious.
Frequently Asked Questions

• Does the parent have to be present for the doctor’s appointment? Parents are strongly encouraged to attend, but it is not required for appointments with primary care physicians. However, parents will always be notified prior to scheduling an appointment. Specialty appointments do require the parent to attend.

• What if the doctor orders labs for a student? If labs are ordered, parents will have to take the child to Memorial Hospital and Manor to complete the tests. Strep, flu, and urine analysis test will be performed at the school clinic.

• What if the doctor prescribes medicine for a student? The medication will be e-scribed to the pharmacy of parent’s choice. Pickup and payment will be the responsibility of parent.

• Will a student still be seen by the school nurse if they are not enrolled in the school-based health clinic? Yes. Students will be seen by the school nurse. However, no student will be seen by a physician unless the enrollment packet is completed and on file.
Frequently Asked Questions

• What happens for conditions that cannot be completed via telehealth? Parents will be informed that a face to face health visit will be necessary. The school nurse will work with physician office and parents to assure that medical care is not delayed.

• What if the child needs specialty care? The telehealth network includes a number of specialist throughout Georgia that are available for consultation by appointment. Specialty appointments will be arranged as needed based on physician referral.

• Can students complete health checkups and immunization visits? No. Telehealth visits are currently arranged for acute illnesses and chronic condition monitoring.

• If I transfer schools will I still have access to telehealth care? Only JWE and WBE are currently participating, however long range plans include securing additional funding to support the establishment of school based telehealth clinics at additional schools.
When will school-based health clinics start seeing patients?

- Installation of telehealth equipment – January 2015
- Training for nurses and participating physicians and their staffs on use of the telemedicine tools – January 2015
- Informational meetings for school staff and parents at JWE and WBE - January and February 2015
- Enrollment Window will open after the parent educational meetings are held and will remain open until the last day of school
- Possible opening of school-based clinics – Feb/March 2015
GENERAL SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTER QUESTIONS

Prior to starting a SBHC, it is recommended that the community is involved. All of the successful centers have done great work in developing a community involvement strategy. One way to achieve this is to establish an advisory board that incorporates various aspects of the community.

- How will we fund a SBHC? How will we sustain it?
- What additional sustaining grants are available?
- Who can assist in writing grants for or with us?
- How can we support the school nurses as they take on a new responsibilities?
- How can we serve indigent patients who are uninsured?
- Do we have a local pharmacy we can partner with to deliver prescriptions to school?
- What other local resources do we have?
- How will we educate the public about telemedicine and school based health centers?
- Will we open the center to others? Family members of students? Global?
- Which school will we add next? Where is the highest need?
- Do we have school support?
- Has the school nurse been involved in planning?
- How will we gather metrics regarding the success of our SBHC?
BENEFITS OF TELEMEDICINE

Telemedicine is not only the healthcare wave of the future but the healthcare wave of now.

• Improve and promote the availability of specialized healthcare in rural and underserved areas
• Educate and provide training to consumer stakeholders and providers of care
• Reduce barriers to care that exist for patients in rural communities
• Telemedicine exists for primary care, trauma care, surgical care, behavioral health, stroke management, chronic disease care, tele radiology, home monitoring, nursing home care and global outreach.
Additional Information

• For more information:
  o [http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/telehealth/](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/telehealth/)

• Georgia Partnership for Telehealth

• Memorial Hospital and Manor
  o [http://www.mh-m.org](http://www.mh-m.org)
  o Email Contact:
    • [SBTC-Medical@mh-m.org](mailto:SBTC-Medical@mh-m.org)

• Decatur County Schools
  o [http://www.dcboe.com](http://www.dcboe.com)
  o Email Contact:
    • [admintelehealth@dcboe.com](mailto:admintelehealth@dcboe.com)