



## **Southern Tennessee Medical Group Launches Telemedicine Services**

Virtual visits connect patients and providers beyond the clinic setting

Southern Tennessee Medical Group announced today that it has added telemedicine to its healthcare offerings in its communities. The announcement comes on the heels of the Trump administration's unprecedented expansion of telehealth services.

Physician services directors for the Southern Tennessee Medical Group practices said they were pleased to be able to offer convenient telemedicine solutions to help connect patients and providers and ensure the continued delivery of high quality care. As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, telehealth capabilities enable clinical teams to practice social distancing to further reduce the spread of illness while still meeting patients' health needs.

For patients who meet certain clinical criteria, Southern Tennessee Medical Group physicians are offering two types of telehealth visits: telephonic and televideo. A telephonic visit is simply a patient phone call with a provider, and a televideo visit is a virtual, face-to-face visit with a provider using a video conferencing service. Virtual visits may not be available in all cases and will be evaluated based on a patient's specific clinical needs.

Patients can request a telehealth visit by calling their provider's office, just as they would for an in-person visit. The provider will determine if a telehealth visit is appropriate based on the patient's health condition. If the virtual visit is deemed clinically appropriate, the patient will be given an appointment time and instructions for the best way to connect given the available platforms. Then, instead of coming to the office, he or she would call back at the scheduled time and be "checked in" by a nurse or office manager, and then transferred to the provider for the call or two-way video.

A few restrictions on telephonic visits may apply, including that they cannot be utilized to treat patients for a condition that the patient has been seen for in the previous seven days, and they cannot be used to treat a condition that the patient is already coming in for within the next 24 hours.

Patients who are concerned they may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 are encouraged to consider telemedicine appointments to help further reduce the spread of respiratory illness. Leveraging telemedicine also conserves personal protective equipment (PPE) and other clinical resources that are needed when treating a patient with suspected COVID-19 in the clinic or hospital setting.

The Southern Tennessee Medical Group is a group of medical professionals established at different practices throughout southern middle Tennessee. Each practice and provider is proud to be a part of Southern Tennessee Regional Health System. The group has grown significantly in the past several years and continues to expand to meet the healthcare needs of the community and surrounding areas. There

are practice locations all over the Tennessee valley to help serve the health care needs of you and your family. To schedule, please call 800-424-DOCS or visit [southerntennesseemedicalgroup.com](http://southerntennesseemedicalgroup.com).

**About Southern Tennessee Regional Health System**

Part of LifePoint Health, Southern Tennessee Regional Health System (STRHS) is a regional network of hospitals and health care services serving the healthcare needs of communities in the southern Tennessee region with facilities in Winchester, Sewanee, Pulaski, and Lawrenceburg. The system has 382 licensed beds, more than 300 affiliated physicians, 1,250 employees, and serves more than 160,000 people in rural communities in the region. STRHS-Winchester, in conjunction with its sister campus in Sewanee, provides inpatient and outpatient services to Franklin County and the surrounding area at their 198-bed acute and skilled care facility and physician practices. For more information, visit [SoutherTnWinchester.com](http://SoutherTnWinchester.com).

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