



# Telemedicine, Telemonitoring & Virtual Health

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**June 16, 2016**

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# About Children's Health

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- Children's is the eighth-largest pediatric health care system in the country, with campuses in Dallas, Plano and Southlake as well as 20 pediatric practice offices across North Texas.
- Children's Health treated more than 280,000 children last year through over 840,000 patient encounters.
- Children's has the second-busiest pediatric emergency department in the country and the 25th busiest overall. 175,000 children visited our emergency department last year.
- We provide pediatric specialty care with more than 50 pediatric specialties and subspecialties.
- Two-thirds of our patients are enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP; more than 90 percent of patients in our 20 pediatric practice offices are enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP.

# Virtual Health at Children's Health

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## TeleNICU/TeleER

Interactive consults on critically-ill children for stabilization & evaluation for transport

**Hospital TeleConsultations (non-emergent)**  
Neonatology  
Neuro-Immunology



## Office/Clinic/School



**Behavioral Health**

**Plastics**

**Neurology**

**Acute Care**

**Neurodevelopmental**

## Technology-Enabled Interpretations

Cardiology (Echos, etc.)  
Radiology (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Reads)

**Remote Patient Monitoring**

**Asthma (Propeller)**

**Mobile Apps**

**Virtual Visit**

## Home



# Telemedicine in Schools

- Currently active in 57 K-12 schools across rural ISDs, urban ISDs and charter schools; expanding by 30 campuses in September 2016.
- Connects medical professionals with school nurse offices via HIPAA-compliant video to treat common primary care conditions.
- Pre-registration by the parent/guardian is required, and parent is always invited to attend the consultation in person or electronically.
- To date, 3,300 visits and 65 nurses trained and completed telemedicine competencies.
- Future of telemedicine in schools: chronic disease management for conditions like asthma, obesity.



# TeleNICU & TeleER

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- TeleNICU enables Level IV neonatologists at Children's to virtually examine newborns at distant-site NICUs.
- The goal is to reduce unnecessary neonatal transfers from the child's home hospital.
- Currently, Children's has nine TeleNICU connections with an additional 14 planned for this year.
- Demonstration project with Trinity Mother Frances in Tyler, Texas, shows that the program saves money while making life easier for families with medically-fragile infants.



# Remote Patient Monitoring

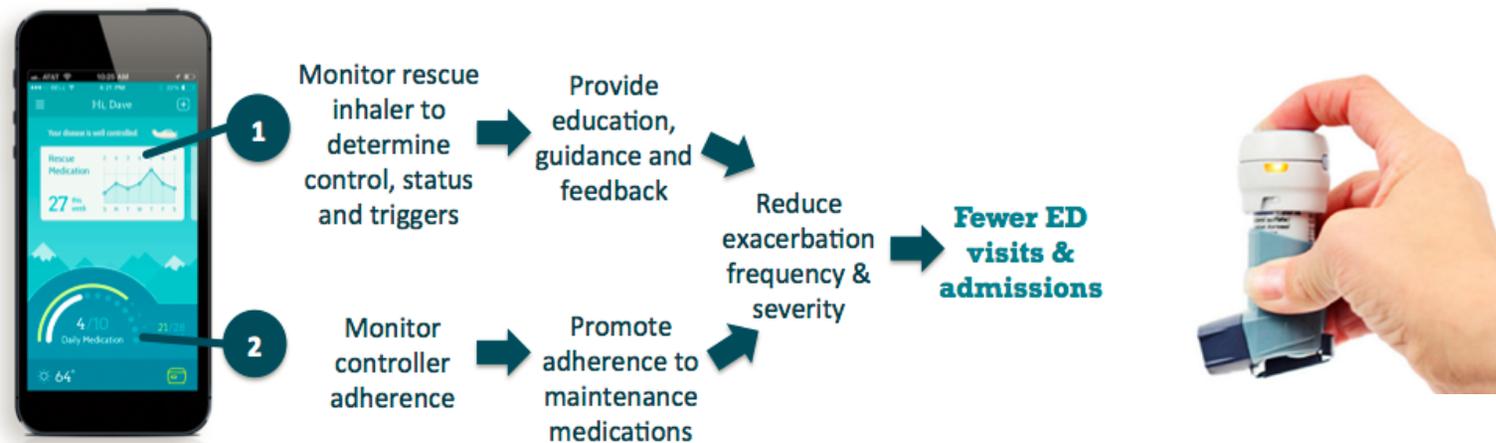
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- Remote patient monitoring (RPM) allows surgeons and medical teams to follow up remotely with post-surgical transplant patients after they are discharged from the hospital.
- Allows medical teams to address conditions as they emerge; maintains a lifeline to the hospital and avoids unnecessary visits to the emergency room or hospital.
- Patient families take home an integrated telemedicine “kit” with devices appropriate for their at-home needs. Parents are provided extensive education.
- Children’s RPM program will consist of 50 patients of various ages and geographic locations. The first 15 enrollees are gastric surgery patients from the Children’s Health Liver and Renal Transplant Division.



# Mobile Technology and Apps

- “**Propeller**” pairs sensor-enabled asthma device with clinical outreach in order to potentially improve asthma management. A pilot program was launched in October 2014 for high-risk asthma patients.



iPhone Apps



My Asthma Pal  
Health & Fitness

- **My Asthma Pal** is a mobile app designed to enhance asthma self-management and education, with the goal of reducing preventable events, such as asthma-related ED admissions.

# Virtual Health

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- Virtual health allows Children's Health to more efficiently connect specialists within our health system.
- Mental and behavioral health specialists at Children's Medical Center are able to connect virtually with children visiting our Dallas campus, Plano campus or any of our 20 Children's Health Pediatric Group physician practice offices.
- A single child psychologist can provide ADHD or behavioral health screening and/or follow up in multiple locations without excessive travel time across North Texas.
- Virtual Visit also allows Children's to provide follow-up care to existing patients when they are discharged from the hospital.

# Next Steps

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- Enhance data collection on existing Remote Patient Monitoring services — both for Medicaid allowable services and private initiatives.
- Expand Remote Patient Monitoring as a Medicaid benefit to patients who will benefit, such as children with severe asthma.
- Align HHSC reimbursement rules with TMF policies; for example, telemedicine services offered in the home to existing patients, such as post-transplant children.
- Provide incentives to rural and remote-site health providers and school districts to purchase equipment and upgrade information technology capability to support tele-specialty and telemedicine services.