

Utah Telehealth Network Clinical Protocols

Clinic Title: Prison Hep. C

Policy Number: 4.6

Date Approved _____

Date Revised _____

Date Reviewed _____

Approved by:

Specialist

Telehealth Director

Clinical Coordinator

Other

Other

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Purpose: To identify the needs of a new clinical service and specialty to assure optimal quality patient examinations/consultations.

Appropriate Patient and Type of Consult: *To be completed by consultant*

Describe, in your opinion, what type of patient can receive exams via the telehealth system. This includes initial referrals and follow up exams. This can include types of patients that don't qualify for an exam via telehealth. (In other words, this can be a list of exclusions).

Any patient with a liver or GI problem that the prison physician and/or physician assistant deem appropriate to be seen over telemedicine. The patient must be able to cooperate with the exam.

Referral and Scheduling Procedure: *To be completed by consultant.*

Define the person in your department responsible for patient scheduling. Describe how a patient will be referred to your specialty service for a telehealth exam or consultation visit.

Patient's must have elevated LFTs for one year, be incarcerated for at least another year and have a urine sample that tests negative for drugs for one year. Then they are referred to the consulting GI specialist by the Infectious Disease Nurse at Wasatch Infirmary (prison). Once referred, the prison scheduling coordinator faxes the schedule to the RN, GI Clinic Coordinator. The RN gives this schedule to the GI consultant.

Telehealth Consult Procedures:

Pre-examination:

Education and Training

1. The UTN telehealth staff is responsible for the education and training of consulting and patient site personnel on the use of the telehealth equipment. This will be done prior to the patient exam.
2. The consultant is responsible for educating/training the patient site personnel regarding specific expectations for a telehealth patient exam. This can take place in several ways. a) The presenting practitioner spends a whole or half day with the consultant in their clinical practice; b) Both providers do a mock patient exam; c) Ongoing joint evaluation of each patient exam.
3. The telehealth staff will assist with any additional education and training of hub and patient site personnel to meet the needs of the patients and providers.

Written documents *To be completed by consultant*

1. List specific patient information you need to know before seeing the patient. Information such as patient name, address, phone number, DOB, SS#, current insurance, medical records, referring physician, patient history, prior diagnosis, reason for referral, current medications and dosages, and any other pertinent information.

Data sent to the GI consultant from the Wastach Infirmary includes the patient's name, DOB, ID#, pertinent clinic notes and reason for the consult.

2. Preliminary screening. *To be completed by consultant.* List any tests/procedures you need prior to or at the time of the patient examination, such as lab tests, vital signs, height, weight, x-rays, EKG's, etc.

This is determined on a case by case basis by the prison physician.

3. Define who will send this information to you, how they will send it (fax, mail, email, phone), and how far in advance you will need this information (an hour, a day, etc.) *To be completed by consultant.*

The prison physician or designate will fax the consultant the information. It will be sent at the time of the telemedicine exam.

4. Patient Informed Consent. Follow the UTN guidelines for Obtaining Informed Consent, sec.2.4. The patient site will obtain a signed consent form from the patient immediately prior to the first patient telehealth examination/consultation. The referral site will fax a copy of the signed consent form to the UTN telehealth hub staff. Additional consent forms are not required for subsequent visits for two years. Examinations and consultations may not proceed without a signed consent form on file. An original copy of the consent form will be kept in the patient's file at the patient site.

Exam Room preparation *To be completed by consultant*

1. Patient site. List what medical supplies and/or equipment you need for the exam. Include such items as stethoscope, otoscope, patient camera, items needed for psychiatric consults, appropriate development assessment tools for pediatric exams, nutritional assessment tools, and other.

Patient exam camera is required

2. Consulting site. In addition to what supplies and equipment is needed at the referring site, inform the telehealth staff if you will need to use the Elmo documentation camera to transmit written orders, documentation, or instructions to the patient. If you are doing an educational presentation, describe what type of audiovisual aids you will be using, such as power point, audiotape or slide presentation.

Nothing special

Patient examination:

Follow the UTN Telehealth Standard Procedure for Consulting Provider, sec. 3.4.

1. Confidentiality
 - a. The patient site coordinator will explain to patients participating in a telehealth exam for the first time, how the system works, emphasizing that the system is confidential; that no video taping of the exam is done, and that no one except the consulting provider and patient presenter will be in the exam room at either the patient or consultant site, without the patient's knowledge and approval.
 - b. The consulting provider will introduce himself or herself to the patient before the exam begins. The consulting provider will ask the patient's permission to have any other person in the room to observe the exam. If the patient declines, the observer must leave the telehealth room.
2. The telehealth patient exam will replicate as closely as possible the way the specialist currently examines patients in person. Briefly describe a basic telehealth consultation for your clinic or specialty, including how the presenter will be expected to assist the consulting provider, if needed, during the exam. *To be completed by consultant.*

The Wasatch Infirmary physician will introduce the patient, give a brief history and describe any abnormalities seen on physical exam. The GI specialist will take the patient history directly from the patient. Any pertinent lab data will be given to the provided by the prison physician.

3. Infection Control - Follow patient site standard policies and procedures for infection control.

Post-examination:

Follow the Telehealth Standard Procedure for Consulting Practitioners, sec. 3.4

1. Discuss with the presenter and patient any medications, follow up tests, or procedures that need to be done before the next visit.
 - a. The presenter is responsible for ordering any necessary test, obtaining the test results and forwarding them in a timely manner to the consultant.
2. Schedule a follow-up exam as needed. Tell the patient and presenter if and when the patient needs to be seen again. Indicate if the next patient visit will be in person or via telehealth.
3. Document patient exam in medical records. Indicate where the patient's telehealth medical records will be filed.

Needs to be answered

4. The consultant instructs the patient and presenter on who to contact (local physician, nurse practitioner, P.A., pharmacist, etc.) if the patient has any adverse reaction to any of the prescribed treatments. *To be completed by consultant.*

Patients will contact Wasatch Infirmary staff with any problems.