

# Oncology Telehealth Program

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## What is the Oncology Telehealth Program?

The Oncology Telehealth Program uses live video to connect patients who do not live near a cancer care center with **oncologists** [ong-CAWL-uh-jists] (cancer specialists) at cancer care centers.

The oncologists direct your cancer treatments in partnership with your local doctor and healthcare team. The telehealth communications will take place at your local clinic, not your home, so you don't need to use your own computer or smart device.

You can also receive **chemotherapy** (chemo), strong medicine that treats cancer, at a clinic closer to home. By using telehealth, you can receive chemotherapy at any supported healthcare facility that is staffed with specially trained nurses and doctors.

## Why use telehealth in cancer care?

Patients receiving chemo need multiple treatments and visits with their oncologist. Oncologists use telehealth to meet with patients, families, and local doctors and nurses in a location that is more convenient for the patient. When travel to distant cancer centers is not needed, patients and families are able to stay closer to their support systems, avoid unnecessary time off work, and save money.

## How does it work?

You will go to a telehealth-enabled office or clinic close to your home. Just like seeing a doctor in the office, the oncologist will speak with you using video to discuss your treatment options and plan of care. Every time you receive chemotherapy, you will be seen by your oncologist and your nurse, with your local doctor available for extra care if needed.



## Who is involved in the Oncology Telehealth Program?

### In your community:

- A patient service representative will schedule your appointments.
- Your local doctor will work with the oncologist to provide cancer care.
- A nurse will start your telehealth visit with the oncologist, monitor your vital signs, give you your chemotherapy, and assist with symptom management when needed.
- The technicians who collect lab samples and take x-rays will ensure that current results are available to your local doctor and oncologist.
- If necessary, an on-site pharmacist (where available) will prepare your anti-cancer drugs for the nurse to administer.

### At the cancer care center:

- The medical oncology specialist will see you on video.
- A nurse navigator will provide guidance, education, preparation, and scheduling for your cancer treatments.
- If necessary, a pharmacist will prepare and send anti-cancer drugs to your facility.

