

Dear Health Professional:

I am writing this letter to raise awareness in regards to services provided by KO eHealth specifically for Telemedicine. Telehealth changes how clients access health care by bringing these services to isolated communities, thereby removing the distance barrier to care. We currently serve 26 First Nation communities in northwestern Ontario connecting them directly with health professionals via the secured Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN).

KO eHealth Telemedicine is a formal partner with OTN and follow their regulations and privacy policies. Our system connects to various health care providers utilizing IDOC equipment and trained support personnel in each community.

Through use of our services you are able to access clients easier for pre and post consultations, assessments, follow up and ongoing care. Services currently available through KO eHealth Telemedicine are all services available through OTN including mental health, surgery follow ups, orthopedics, cardiology, diabetes education, emergency dental care, and other chronic disease management services. We are also pursuing new and innovative connections such as ongoing physiotherapy services through home care, speech and language services and remote ophthalmology (retinal screening).

It can be difficult for a client to commit to a medical appointment, whether it is out of fear of leaving their community, poor weather conditions, finding a babysitter, arranging transportation and accommodations, missing school, or leaving family. By using telemedicine services, we are able to connect the client and health professional in a more timely fashion and offer a wider geographic catchment area for health care services. Additionally, a trained Community Telemedicine coordinator at each site can provide translation services should this be a barrier. There are nurses within the Health Centres who can also participate in the telemedicine interaction if required.

We also offer televisitation, connecting patients with their families when they are in the hospital and out of the community for long periods of time due to illness.

If you have any questions, or if we can help in any way, please feel free to contact us at 1-800-387-3740 ext. 1331 to speak with our Clinical Services Coordinator.

Sincerely,



Orpah McKenzie
Director e-Health Services
ext 1303



Tina Kakepetum Schultz
Assistant Director e-Health Services
ext 1327

For information on scheduling an event, please contact our scheduling department at 1-800-387-3740 ext 1306 or 1304. To find out more about KO eHealth Telemedicine visit <http://telemedicine.knet.ca>.