



Use Case: University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Center for Telehealth

Fast Facts:

- Since 2003, UMMC has treated more than 500,000 patients in more than 200 locations across Mississippi by bringing healthcare solutions like telemedicine, remote monitoring, and store and forward technologies into patients' homes and healthcare possibilities.
- Telehealth enables doctors to examine and treat patients remotely and in real time, using online streaming video technology, wearable devices, and interactive tools.
- Currently, 53 of Mississippi's 82 counties are more than a 40-minute drive from specialty care. In some counties, like rural Wayne County, less than 3 percent of the residents have broadband access.
- Roughly 54 percent of Mississippians live in rural areas with limited connectivity. To better serve patients who do not have access to wireless or broadband service in their homes, UMMC has provided patients with cellular service to engage in remote patient monitoring.

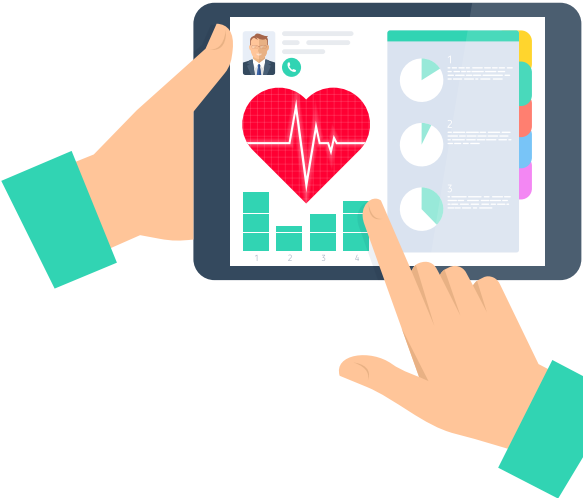
The Story:

The UMMC Center for Telehealth uses internet-connected solutions to deliver care to communities and patients who need it most. With more than 60 percent of Mississippi's counties located more than a 40-minute drive away from specialty care facilities, UMMC began utilizing telehealth in 2003 to serve remote patients across the state, and launched the Center for Telehealth in 2013. Today, UMMC offers more than 35 medical and telehealth services, and helps to bring remote monitoring to patients in their homes, without sacrificing quality of care or driving up healthcare costs.



Here's How It Works:

- Once in the UMMC Remote Patient Monitoring Program, a patient with Type 2 diabetes, asthma, or COPD would receive a tablet for at-home health monitoring, as well as supplemental connected medical devices and a dedicated nurse to monitor and assess incoming health data.
- Equipped with the tablet and medical devices, the patient can manage his or her condition through daily glucose monitoring and regular online check-ins with clinical specialists – all from the comfort and convenience of home.



- The patient can use videoconferencing to connect with his or her nurse, who will subsequently review the patient's health data and provide real-time medical guidance.
- With accurate, up-to-date health data, nurses can quickly identify and address healthcare problems by alerting local primary care physicians and UMMC specialists.
- Together, the patients, nurses, and doctors all use telehealth solutions to proactively address small healthcare woes before they become serious health crises.

Here's the Benefit:

- The first 100 patients enrolled in the Mississippi Telehealth Diabetes Network experienced an average 1.7 percent reduction in the A1C test used to determine an average glucose level.
- The first 100 patients enrolled in the Mississippi Telehealth Diabetes Network experienced zero hospitalizations or ER visits.
- The first 100 patients enrolled in the Mississippi Telehealth Diabetes Network collectively saved \$339,184 in healthcare costs.
- Cost analyses have predicted that if 20 percent of Mississippi's diabetic population was enrolled in the Mississippi Telehealth Diabetes Network it would bring \$189 million in Medicaid savings to the state of Mississippi every year.
- Imagine the health care and cost-saving possibilities if all patients with chronic diseases had access to telemedicine solutions.



Why Connectivity Matters:

It's simple. Without access to broadband, none of these benefits -- the personalized care, expedited diagnoses and medical solutions, and reduced healthcare costs -- would be possible. Instead, the roughly 23.4 million rural Americans without access to broadband would be forced to drive to a community center or library to access the internet, travel long distances to visit a healthcare facility, or pay high medical bills for sporadic visits to a doctor or healthcare specialist. While federal broadband programs support the need to connect community centers like libraries and schools, UMMC's telehealth program illustrates the need for affordable broadband in individuals' homes, and highlights the merits of real time access to health data and guidance to provide effective preventative care. To ensure the success of the UMMC Center for Telehealth, and programs like it across the United States, reliable access to broadband is imperative.