



Evolve Psychiatry

TELEMEDICINE CONSENT

To better serve the needs of the community, especially in light of the Coronavirus pandemic, health care services are now available using telemedicine. Telemedicine allows the health care provider to see and communicate with the patient in real-time using interactive telecommunications technology. The interaction can involve real-time evaluation, diagnosis, consultation, and treatment of health conditions. Although there are many benefits to telehealth such as increased access to care, there are also some differences between in-person treatment and telehealth. Telehealth requires technical competence on both the part of the patient and the provider in order to be successful. Furthermore, an unauthorized person or persons may access a private patient/provider conversation or access confidential data. There is no guarantee that all treatment of all patients will be effective.

Evolve Psychiatry utilizes telecommunication softwares developed by Dr. Chrono, Google, Doxy, and RingCentral. Evolve Psychiatry uses updated encryption methods, firewalls, and back-up systems to help keep patient information private, but there is always a risk that electronic communications may be compromised, unsecured, or accessed by others.

TELEHEALTH BEST PRACTICES

Because telehealth communications take place outside of our private office there is a potential for other people to overhear sessions. It is important for the patient to make sure that they participate in treatment in a private setting to avoid being disturbed or overheard and where other people are not able to view the electronic device being used for therapy. The telehealth sessions shall not be recorded in any way unless agreed to in writing by mutual consent. Evolve Psychiatry will maintain a record of the session in the same way the provider would maintain records of in-person sessions in accordance with clinic policies.

The nature of electronic communications technologies is such that the provider cannot guarantee that communications will be kept confidential or that other people may not gain access to the communications. The patient should act responsibly for information security on their devices including but not limited to, computer, tablet, or phone) and in their own location. Additionally patients should use secure networks for telehealth sessions, use passwords to protect the device used for telehealth, and avoid sharing telehealth appointment links or information with anyone not authorized to attend the session.

APPROPRIATENESS OF TELEHEALTH

It may not always be appropriate to conduct telemedicine sessions. Evolve Psychiatry will generally not engage in telehealth with patients who are experiencing a crisis situation and/or are deemed to require higher levels of support and intervention. Before engaging in telehealth, the patient and provider will develop an emergency response plan to address any potential crisis situations that may arise during telehealth sessions. A patient's provider can discontinue telehealth services if those services do not appear to have any therapeutic benefit or for other reasons that will be explained to the patient. Evolve Psychiatry will communicate if it is decided that telehealth is no longer the most appropriate form of treatment for the patient. If the patient decides telehealth is not optimal, it is important that the patient communicate their reservation to the provider. The provider and patient, if either or both decide telemedicine isn't sufficient for patient's care, will then discuss options of engaging in referrals to another professional who can provide a more appropriate level of care.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By signing this notice, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to the terms of this agreement.