

Connecting with patients via video

eVisit (secure videoconferencing) lets you see a patient via video at a telemedicine studio or direct to their computer, tablet or smartphone



Local

Get care closer to or even at home.



Timely

Reduced travel and wait times.



Informed

Continuity of care for your patients.



Secured

Visits as private and secure as they would be in person.

Is eVisit an option for my patient?

Healthcare providers are providing care via eVisit (videoconference) more and more every day. In Ontario, some 1,700 specialists connect with patients via eVisit when an in-person office visit is not necessary. This means time, travel and costs saved, as well as greater convenience.

When is an eVisit appropriate?

eVisits are typically used for follow-up visits, such as connecting with patients to review test results or their response to treatment. They have been used extensively for mental health care delivery. In primary care, they are used to manage common health problems. Specialists, and specialized practice family physicians, can also use eVisits for first-time patients, especially those who may have difficulty getting to the office.

Is it a safe way of delivering care?

Absolutely. Videoconferencing via the OTNhub is completely safe and secure. Whether it's appropriate for your patient, given their health considerations, is up to your clinical judgement, as noted in CPSO guidelines regarding telemedicine use.

How do I access the technology?

The eVisit technology is provided by the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN). All it takes is an OTN membership, which also provides access to a range of other practice-enhancing tools. Go to otnhub.ca to sign up. Membership is free to healthcare practitioners who receive 50% or more of their funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, a Local Health Integration Network or OHIP.

Is it easy to do an eVisit?

Yes. Through the OTNhub, you can identify hospitals and health centres near your patient's home community that offer the use of a telemedicine studio and telemedicine nurse support, and then book the appointment. Or you can use OTNInvite to plan and connect with your patient, from your computer to their computer, tablet or smartphone. You can also search for a specialist to whom you can refer your patient. OTN provides a multitude of training tools, both written and video, and you can also access technical support through OTN and take advantage of OTN's StartSmart support service for new members.

Can I bill for an eVisit?

Physicians have been able to bill for telemedicine services through OHIP for many years now. As part of a pilot, select physicians can now also bill the same code when the patient is in the location of their choice (e.g. home, work) using their personal device.

Questions? Please email OTN at info@otn.ca or call 1-866-654-0888.