

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Telepsychiatry Program

Our program provides SNF clinicians with access to psychiatric providers and nursing support.

By augmenting the skills of clinical professionals in behavioral health issues, we enable nonclinical staff to interact with a behavioral population.

This leads to better outcomes, improves the experience of patient and family, and reduces the cost of care.

Our Multi-Level Service Approach uses:

- Telepsychiatry
- Telementoring: Project ECHO in Geriatric Mental Health (GEMH)
- A psychiatric nurse engagement specialist

Common Indications for a Telepsychiatry Referral

- Suicidal ideation
- Aggression or behavioral disturbance
- Delirium
- Dementia
- Medication management
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Capacity Evaluation
- Preadmission screening and resident review

Benefits to SNFs and their residents

- Access to comprehensive psychiatric services
- Medication reduction and reconciliation
- Non-pharmacologic recommendations
- Assistance with patient behavioral planning
- Enhanced psychiatric education and clinical skills for the treatment team
- Minimized physical/emotional disruption to patients because evaluation takes place in a familiar environment

The NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) is sponsoring Telepsychiatry services in Skilled Nursing Facilities that are accepting patients from OMH Psychiatric Centers. The program is by the University Of Rochester Medicine Department of Psychiatry. The University Of Rochester Telepsychiatry services expands upon the OMH Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) Geriatric Mental Health (GEMH) virtual clinics that are currently provided biweekly to skilled nursing facilities accepting patients from OMH facilities during the transition period. The program is designed to provide timely psychiatric consultations for skilled nursing facility residents using interactive telemedicine technology. This continues OMH's commitment to support SNFs meeting the psychiatric needs of patients on the continuum of care.

To learn more, please contact Program Manager Lara Press-Ellingham at lara_pressellingham@urmc.rochester.edu or call (585) 397-8145.



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