

INFORMED CONSENT FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES AT THE HOTCHKISS SCHOOL, 2020-21

This Informed Consent for Telehealth Services contains important information for parents, guardians and students regarding health and wellness services being provided to The Hotchkiss School students over the Internet for the 2020-21 academic year. Please read this carefully, and feel free to contact the Wieler Health Center (860-435-3226) with any questions. When you sign this document, it will represent an agreement between you and Hotchkiss School.

Scope and Definition:

Telehealth refers to providing healthcare and counseling services remotely using telecommunications technologies, such as video conferencing. Telehealth may be utilized for services typically associated with Wieler Health Center, including, but not limited to, sessions with a counselor, appointments with a health care provider, nurse screenings, consultation with off-campus specialists, and consultations with ancillary staff such as nutritionists. Telehealth may be provided during the academic year while the student is on campus taking classes; when the student is off-campus, they should transition and primarily use providers in their local vicinity for care. Telehealth provided by The Hotchkiss School health center providers may be used to help with this transition. If a student experiences a psychological crisis or medical emergency when off campus, they should seek care immediately with local emergency services.

Benefits and Risks of Telehealth

One of the benefits of telehealth is that the client and clinician can safely engage in services. Although there are benefits of telehealth, there are some differences between telehealth and in-person interactions with the Wieler Health Center, as well as some risks. For example:

- Risks to confidentiality. Because telehealth sessions may take place outside of the Wieler Health Center, there is potential for other people to overhear sessions if the student is not in a private place during the session. Health Center staff will always take reasonable steps to ensure student privacy and we will have physical space set aside in the counseling department for students to conduct their Zoom sessions. If the student opts to meet in their own space, it is important for the student to make sure they find a private place for their appointment where they will not be interrupted. It is also important for the student to protect the privacy of their session on their cell phone or other device. The student should participate in telehealth only while in a room or area where other people are not present and cannot overhear the conversation.
- Issues related to technology. There are many ways that technology issues might impact telehealth. For example, technology may stop working during a session or appointment or other people might be able to get access to our private conversation. It should be noted that The Hotchkiss School providers use a HIPAA-compliant teleconferencing platform in order to minimize this risk as much as possible. Communication delays or difficulties, as well as the lack of in-person contact, can prove less effective, frustrating, and may lead to misunderstandings. Because this is not the typical mode of communicating with your counselor, the initial adjustment to a new platform may feel uncomfortable and may not be right for some students.
- Efficacy. Evidence and experience indicate telehealth is about as effective as in-person appointments. However, some aspects of the interaction may be lost by not being in the same room. The benefits and risks will need to be weighed against whatever alternatives to telehealth are available.

Confidentiality

Hotchkiss School health center staff have a legal and ethical responsibility to make our best efforts to protect all communications that are related to telehealth. However, the nature of electronic communications

technologies is such that we cannot guarantee that our communications will be kept confidential or that other people may not gain access to our communications. The Wieler Health Center will always take precautions to keep our communication confidential, but students and families should also take reasonable steps to ensure the security of our communications (for example, only using secure networks for and having passwords to protect the device you use).

Off Campus Protocol and Emergencies

Evaluating emergencies and assessing risk can be more difficult when conducting telehealth than in traditional in-person counseling and healthcare interactions. To address some of these difficulties, we will create an action plan for telehealth services.

- Off Campus Protocol. For students who have their initial telehealth visit with a provider when the student is off campus, Hotchkiss School requires a student's parent or legal guardian be present. During the initial session, the provider will address certain telehealth-related topics with the parent or legal guardian. In addition, for purposes of student safety and to ensure resources during an emergency situation, an adult contact must be present in the home or other off campus location where the student is receiving telehealth services and the provider must have access to that adult's contact information.
- Crisis management and intervention. Hotchkiss School counselors and health center employees will conduct an initial Zoom assessment and if needed, follow up by an in-person evaluation and then coordinate the necessary levels of support and intervention. If a provider realizes a student may be experiencing an emergency, potential responses include notification to Security to locate and bring the student to the Wieler Health Center, communication with parent(s)/guardian(s), and accessing local emergency services as clinically indicated.

Records

Telehealth sessions shall not be recorded in any way unless agreed to in writing by mutual consent. Wieler Health Center employees will maintain a written record of telehealth appointments and sessions in the same way they are maintained for in-person meetings.

Informed Consent

This Informed Consent for Telehealth is intended as a supplement to the general permission for Medical Care.

I understand that by signing this form, I am authorizing my child to seek and receive remote medical and counseling services.

Name of student

Name of parent/guardian

Signature of parent/guardian

Date

- Unless otherwise indicated at the beginning of a session, my child's location will be:

- If a session gets disconnected, please call the health center at 860-435-3226
- Number to reach student or guardian: _____
- In an emergency situation please contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Health Care Providers

- Jared Zelman, MD License #29824
- Zachary McClain, MD License #64239
- Jack Miller, MD License #33331
- Catherine Hosterman, APRN License #2560
- Emily Durocher, PA License #4517
- Danielle Shippey, RN License #119366
- Michelle Sisk, RD-N License #857
- Jodi von Jess, LCSW License #7027
- Kristen Lazarus, LCSW License #11122
- Jonathan Wilson, LCSW License #5223
- Christina Miranda, LPC License #1951
- Diane Dillon, Ph.D, License #3665

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