



## **TELEHEALTH INFORMED CONSENT**

*Telehealth is healthcare provided by any means other than a face-to-face visit. In telehealth services, medical and mental health information is used for diagnosis, consultation, treatment, therapy, follow-up, and education. Health information is exchanged interactively from one site to another through electronic communications. Telephone consultation, video conferencing, transmission of still images, e-health technologies, patient portals, and remote patient monitoring are all considered telehealth services.*

### **Patient's Initials**

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that telehealth involves the communication of my medical/mental health information in an electronic or technology-assisted format.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I may opt out of the telehealth visit at any time. This will not change my ability to receive future care at this office.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that telehealth services can only be provided to patients, including myself, who are residing in the state of Pennsylvania at the time of this service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that telehealth billing information is collected in the same manner as a regular office visit. My financial responsibility will be determined individually and governed by my insurance carrier(s), Medicare, or Medicaid, and it is my responsibility to check with my insurance plan to determine coverage.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that all electronic medical communications carry some level of risk. While the likelihood of risks associated with the use of telehealth in a secure environment is reduced, the risks are nonetheless real and important to understand. My own internet connection, email provider and phone service may pose risks including, but not limited to, my own personal accounts and devices.

These risks include but are not limited to:

- It is easier for electronic communication to be forwarded, intercepted, or even changed without my knowledge and despite taking reasonable measures.
- Electronic systems that are accessed by employers, friends, or others are not secure and should be avoided. It is important for me to use a secure network.
- Despite reasonable efforts on the part of my healthcare provider, the transmission of medical information could be disrupted or distorted by technical failures.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that information exchanged during my telehealth visit will be maintained by the healthcare providers, and healthcare facilities involved in my care.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that medical information, including medical records, are governed by federal

and state laws that apply to telehealth. This includes my right to access my own medical records (and copies of medical records).

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that Safe Pathways Counseling utilizes HIPAA compliant telehealth platforms, Doxy.me and Ring-Rx. I understand that Skype, FaceTime, or a similar service does not provide a secure HIPAA compliant platform.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that "FREE WI-FI" is not appropriate for telehealth communication.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I must take reasonable steps to protect myself from unauthorized use of my electronic communications by others.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the healthcare provider is not responsible for breaches of confidentiality caused by an independent third party or by me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that I have verified to my healthcare provider my identity and current location in connection with the telehealth services. I acknowledge that failure to comply with these procedures may terminate the telehealth visit.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I have a responsibility to verify the identity and credentials of the healthcare provider rendering my care via telehealth and to confirm that he or she is my healthcare provider.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that electronic communication cannot be used for emergencies or for time-sensitive matters.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand and agree that an evaluation via telehealth may limit my healthcare provider's ability to fully diagnose a condition or disease. As the patient, I agree to accept responsibility for following my healthcare provider's recommendations, including further diagnostic testing, or an in-office visit.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that secure electronic communication will be used to communicate highly sensitive medical information, such as treatment for or information related to HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, or addiction treatment (alcohol, drug dependence, etc.).

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that my healthcare provider may choose to forward my information to an authorized third party. This will only be through a secure platform, or "paper" mail service. (Post Office) By signing this document, I understand the inherent risks of errors or deficiencies in the electronic transmission of health information and images during a telehealth visit.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that there is never a warranty or guarantee as to a particular result or outcome related to a condition or diagnosis when medical care is provided.

\_\_\_\_\_ To the extent permitted by law, I agree to waive and release my healthcare provider and his or her institution or practice from any claims I may have about the telehealth visit.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware that email is not a secure platform and that my counselor will not conduct therapy or transmit any protected health information to me through email. If I choose to email my counselor, I accept full responsibility for the risk incurred.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Ring-Rx is a secure telephone platform through which I may leave a voicemail for my counselor at 570-674-1505.

\_\_\_\_\_ I may send and receive a secure text message to address scheduling or cancellation of appointments through Ring-Rx at 570-761-7111.

\_\_\_\_\_ All telephone conversations with my counselor will take place through Ring-Rx and incoming calls to me will come from 570-761-7100.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that electronic communication should never be used for emergency or requests. Emergency should be made to the provider's office and to the existing emergency 911 services in my community.

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I certify that I have read and understand this agreement and that all blanks were filled in prior to my signature with the opportunity to have questions answered to my satisfaction.

For electronic communication between \_\_\_\_\_ and staff and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Healthcare Provider's Name) (Patient's Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Patient's or Legal Representative Signature/Date/Time**      **Relationship to Patient**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Patient or Legal Representative Name**      **Witness Signature/Date/Time**

I certify that I have explained the nature of this agreement to the patient or patient's legal representative. I have answered all questions fully, and I believe that the patient or legal representative (**circle one**) **fully understands** what I have explained.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Healthcare Provider Signature/Date/Time**

\_\_\_\_\_ Copy Given To Patient  
**Initial**

\_\_\_\_\_ Original Placed In Chart  
**Initial**