



1528 Walnut St. Ste. 1414, Philadelphia, PA 19102 | 30 S. Valley Rd. Ste. 101 Paoli, PA 19301 | Phone 267-358-6155

## 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, videoconferencing, transmission of still images, e-health technologies, email, patient portals and remote patient monitoring are all considered telehealth services.

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

1. I understand that telehealth involves the communication of my medical and mental health information in an electronic or technology assisted format (phone, videoconferencing and others).
2. I understand that I may opt out of telehealth visits at any time. This will not change my ability to receive future care at Rittenhouse Psychiatric Associates, but may affect my ability to see my current provider.
3. I understand that telehealth services can only be provided to patients, including myself, who are physically located in the state of Pennsylvania, at the time of their visits. If my provider is also licensed in New Jersey (or another state), then I may also have telehealth visits, when I am physically located in that state as well (it is my responsibility to discuss with Rittenhouse Psychiatric Associate's staff, where my provider is licensed, and it is my responsibility to notify them, should I no longer be able to have appointments from a state where my provider is licensed).
4. I understand that telehealth billing information is collected in the same manner as regular office visits, and visit fees are the same for face-to-face visits and telehealth visits at Rittenhouse Psychiatric Associates.
  - a. I understand that if technology fails for a videoconferencing session, the visit will be moved to a phone appointment, and there will be no change in visit fees (I will still be responsible for the full visit fee).
5. If I have out-of-network health insurance benefits for mental health services, it is my responsibility to discuss with my insurance company, whether they reimburse for telehealth appointments. Our fees do not change whether a patient's insurance company accepts telehealth as a reimbursable expense, and it is my responsibility to research before making appointments with this office.
6. 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. These risks include, but are not limited to:
  - a. It is easier for electronic communication to be forwarded, intercepted, or even changed without my knowledge and despite taking reasonable measures.



1528 Walnut St. Ste. 1414, Philadelphia, PA 19102 | 30 S. Valley Rd. Ste. 101 Paoli, PA 19301 | Phone 267-358-6155

- b. 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.
  - c. Despite reasonable efforts on the part of my healthcare provider, the transmission of medical information could be disrupted or distorted by technical failures.
  - d. Telehealth visits could be “hacked,” despite reasonable efforts being made to prevent this from occurring.
  - e. Providers will not be able to perform a true physical examination, check vital signs or take other actions, that may be part of the standard of care, for the prescription of certain medications or when assessing patients with certain presentations or conditions. If my provider recommends that I purchase a blood pressure cuff and record data, see my primary care physician for vitals or take other actions to mitigate the risk of an adverse outcome because of this, it is my responsibility to do so, and I acknowledge that not doing so, may result in physical harm to me or an adverse outcome.
7. I agree that information exchanged during my telehealth visit will be maintained by doctors, nurse practitioners, therapists, administrators, and other providers involved in my care.
  8. I understand that medical information, is governed by federal and state laws that apply to telehealth.
  9. I understand that Skype, FaceTime or similar services may not provide a secure HIPAA-compliant platform, but I willingly and knowingly wish to proceed. If I have questions pertaining to the platform that my provider is using, it is my responsibility to discuss with my provider and/or Rittenhouse Psychiatric Associate’s staff, before any telehealth appointments.
  10. I understand that I must take reasonable steps to protect myself from unauthorized use of my electronic communications with others.
  11. The healthcare provider is not responsible for breaches in confidentiality caused by an independent or third party or by me.
  12. 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 result in the termination of my telehealth visit.
  13. I understand that I have the 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.
  14. I understand that electronic communication cannot be used for emergencies or time-sensitive matters.
  15. I understand and agree that a medical evaluation via telehealth may limit my healthcare provider’s ability to fully diagnose a condition or disease. As a patient, I agree to accept responsibility for following my healthcare provider’s recommendations- including further diagnostic testing, such as lab testing or an in-office visit.
  16. I understand that electronic communication may be used to communicate highly sensitive medical information, such as treatment for or information related to HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted



1528 Walnut St. Ste. 1414, Philadelphia, PA 19102 | 30 S. Valley Rd. Ste. 101 Paoli, PA 19301 | Phone 267-358-6155

diseases, mental health information and addiction treatment (alcohol and drug use, abuse and dependence for example).

17. I understand that my healthcare provider may choose to forward my information to an authorized third party. Therefore, I have informed the healthcare provider of any information I do not wish to be transmitted through electronic communication.
18. By signing below, I understand the inherent risks of errors or deficiencies in the electronic transmission of health information and images during a telehealth visit.
19. 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.
20. 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.
- 21. I understand that electronic communications should never be used for emergency communications or urgent requests. In the case of an emergency, I will call 911. Telecommunications (including email) are never to be used in the case of an emergency. Additionally, text is never an appropriate form of communication with any of our providers, and we are not responsible for responding to any texts.**
22. If a potential new patient has a history of psychiatric inpatient admission, suicide attempts or psychosis, we will not be able to provide virtual visits (as we believe that it may be safer to have a provider whom these patients can see face-to-face on a regular basis).
23. If during the course of treatment, a patient's provider deems that they do not have the skill-set or resources to safely provide care to a patient virtually or otherwise (for example, if a patient is assessed as being high risk for self-harm or suicide) the provider will discuss this directly with the patient, provide resources on finding local mental health professionals (for example, providers whom the patient can see for regular face-to-face appointments, with admitting privileges at local psychiatric hospitals and 24-hour emergency coverage), and the patient will be required to transition to a new provider within 90 days; it's important to our practice that we are honest with our patients, and if we do not feel that we are not only a good fit medically, but a SAFE fit, a transition of care will be required. It is the patient's responsibility to make an appointment with another provider and to follow through with this transition of care. Our providers will provide medical records and/or a summary of care to your new provider, with a signed release of information upon your request.
24. If a patient is being seen for addiction, an initial face-to-face visit may be required, and patients will be required to have random drug screens performed within 72 hours of a provider's request, throughout care. If a patient is abusing alcohol or benzodiazepines (Xanax, Valium, Klonopin, Ativan) the provider may require continued face-to-face appointments, for safety purposes, at their discretion. Additionally, your insurance company may not reimburse for telehealth visits.



1528 Walnut St. Ste. 1414, Philadelphia, PA 19102 | 30 S. Valley Rd. Ste. 101 Paoli, PA 19301 | Phone 267-358-6155

I certify that I have read and understand this agreement and that all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

For electronic communication between all staff at Rittenhouse Psychiatric Associates / Chris Pagnani MD PC and:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Patient or Legal Representative's Name  
*Typing Your Name Here Constitutes Legal Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Patient

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature – Patient or Legal Representative  
*Typing Your Name Here Constitutes Legal Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

E-mail this form to: (Select person below)

Print this form