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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lovell Federal Health Care Center expands Telehealth clinics, bringing convenient care to Kenosha, Wis., as well as Evanston and McHenry, Ill. veterans

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. – The Kenosha, Wis., and Evanston and McHenry, Ill. Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center are expanding clinical video Telehealth clinics to offer teleaudiology, teleretinal imaging, post-traumatic stress disorder support groups and care, nutrition counseling and many other services.

As veterans learn about their expanding health care options under the Affordable Care Act, it is important they understand the Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to continuing to provide high-quality, comprehensive and convenient health care. Lovell FHCC is leading the way by providing clinical video Telehealth services at each of its three clinics.

Clinical video Telehealth uses video-conferencing technology to securely and quickly link health care providers with patients in convenient locations. This technology allows the wide range of Lovell FHCC providers who work at the North Chicago, Ill. hospital the ability to connect with patients at any of the community clinics. Telehealth technology provides a safe, reliable and accurate way for providers to assess patients and manage treatment.

Patients appreciate the convenience and ease of the Telehealth clinics, said audiologist Dr. Darrin Worthington, who is based at the North Chicago hospital. “Telehealth clinics are the perfect marriage of technology and patient convenience, provide a high-level of patient interaction, and are surprisingly intimate,” Worthington said recently after treating a Marengo, Ill. veteran who traveled to the McHenry CBOC for his appointment.

Worthington continued, “I only say surprisingly because I think the perception of talking to and caring for someone through a video monitor might strike some people as less intimate than an in-person consultation. I think once most of our patients try Telehealth services, they will find that it fits their needs.”

Worthington’s patient, veteran David Schultz, said it was much easier to get to his teleaudiology appointment in McHenry, and he did not notice a difference in the quality of care he received.

“It didn’t feel different than an in-person appointment,” said Schultz, who added he would “definitely take advantage of it again.”

For Schultz’s appointment, McHenry CBOC staff set up special equipment including a video otoscope, and with the help of a nurse at the CBOC, Dr. Worthington was able to conduct his usual, thorough audiology exam from his office in North Chicago.

Lovell FHCC is committed to offering veterans high-quality, comprehensive care. Utilizing clinical video Telehealth services fulfills that mission by bringing the care to patients in a more convenient location. For more information on our Telehealth services and clinics, please visit: www.lovell.fhcc.va.gov.

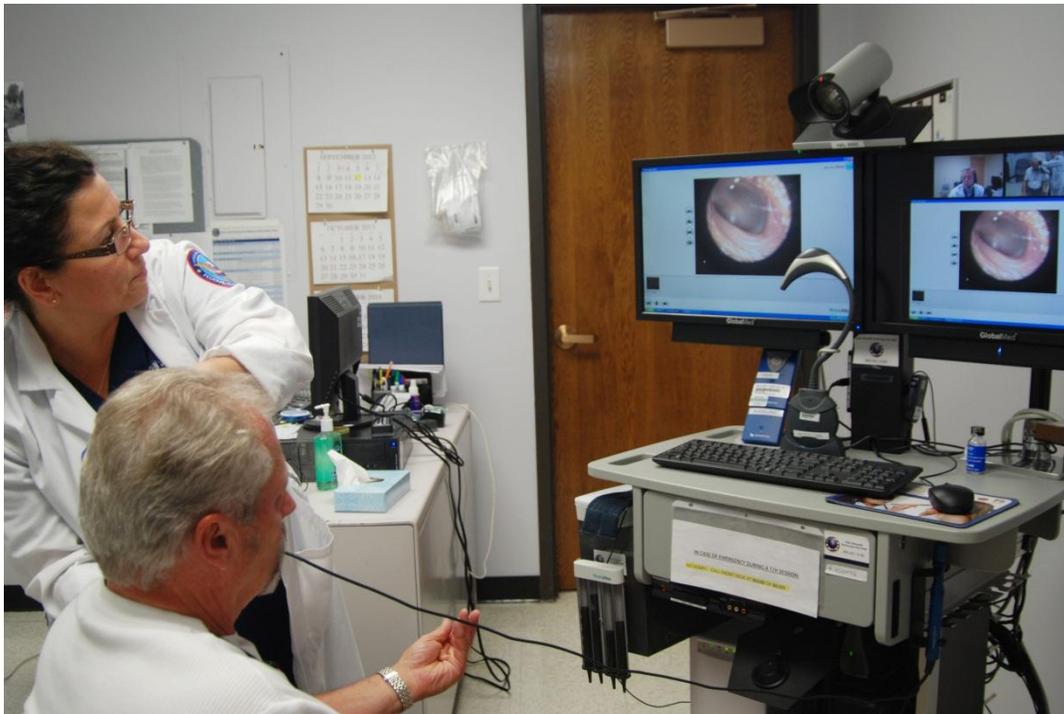
Our clinic locations:

Evanston Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1942 Dempster Street
Evanston, IL 60202
Phone: 847-869-6315
Telehealth Coordinator: Marlene Pendry, LPN

Kenosha Community Based Outpatient Clinic
8207 22nd Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53140
Phone: 262-653-9286
Telehealth Coordinator: Turina Evans, LPN

McHenry Community Based Outpatient Clinic
620 South Route 31, Suite 4
McHenry, IL 60050
Phone: 815-759-2306
Telehealth Coordinator: Paula Mantas, LPN

See photos below and attached. More photos and captions are available on Lovell FHCC’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/lovellfhcc.



Paula Mantas, LPN and Telehealth Coordinator at the McHenry, Ill. clinic, uses a video otoscope on a veteran patient, David Schultz. Schultz's audiologist, Dr. Darrin Worthington, speaks with the patient through the clinical video teleconference equipment. *(Photo by Stephanie McCrobie, Public Affairs Specialist, Lovell FHCC Public Affairs)*



Paula Mantas, LPN and Telehealth Coordinator at the McHenry, Ill. clinic, and veteran patient David Schultz, speak with audiologist, Dr. Darrin Worthington,

through the clinical video Teleconference equipment. *(Photo by Stephanie McCrobie, Public Affairs Specialist, Lovell FHCC Public Affairs)*



David Schultz, veteran patient at Lovell FHCC's McHenry, Ill. clinic, speaks with his audiologist, Dr. Darrin Worthington through clinical video teleconference equipment. Dr. Worthington conducts tests from his office in North Chicago with the assistance of a nurse in the McHenry clinic. *(Photo by Stephanie McCrobie, Public Affairs Specialist, Lovell FHCC Public Affairs)*

About the Lovell FHCC: The Lovell FHCC was established Oct. 1, 2010, as the nation's only fully integrated Department of Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense federal health care center. The center has a dual mission of caring for Veterans and ensuring the medical and dental readiness of U.S. Navy recruits and sailors serving in the region. Lovell FHCC, which is located in North Chicago, operates four Great Lakes Naval Station medical clinics and three community based outpatient clinics in McHenry and Evanston, Ill. and Kenosha, Wis. The facility also serves military families and retirees.