



# Medina Hospital Advocate

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## Virtual Visits Provide Safe Care to Pediatric Patients

By Elaine DeRosa Lea

Just weeks before the coronavirus pandemic, Cleveland Clinic Children's pediatricians Heidi Senokozlieff, DO, and David Burke, DO, addressed the Medina Hospital Foundation Board on the advantages of telehealth for their young patients. At that time, virtual medicine had not yet caught on. A few months later, it was the norm.

"We have come a far way," Dr. Senokozlieff says. "We have done it in several different platforms, and very quickly. We have learned a lot, including that virtual health is probably here to stay."



Heidi Senokozlieff, DO



David Burke, DO

"That's a good thing," Dr. Burke says. "We've talked to a lot of families whose kids have a cough, runny nose, fever. We're trying to not bring them into the office because we don't want

to expose ourselves or them. We can do a virtual exam and limit their exposure to other people."

Dr. Burke, a member of Cleveland Clinic's COVID virtualist team, says that he can treat COVID-positive children throughout the health system with virtual visits, including follow-up care.

Coronavirus is not the doctors' only concern. "Kids also get fevers from flu or the common cold," Dr. Senokozlieff says. "We spend a lot of time comforting parents that their kids' symptoms are ones that we see on a routine basis."

Telehealth often is the safest, most effective way to see patients, especially medically fragile children, for whom on-site visits can be risky. It also is a boon for patients outside the Medina area, Dr. Senokozlieff says.

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### U.S. News Rankings

Cleveland Clinic Children's has earned national recognition from *U.S. News & World Report* in **10 out of 10 specialties** in the 2020-21 edition of "Best Children's Hospitals":

- Cancer** (17)
- Cardiology & heart surgery** (15)
- Diabetes & endocrinology** (44)
- Gastroenterology & GI surgery** (12)
- Neonatology** (14)
- Nephrology** (35)
- Neurology & neurosurgery** (25)
- Orthopedics** (26)
- Pulmonology** (32)
- Urology** (23)

## Virtual Visits

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“Virtual visits are not limited by your location,” she says. “We’ve had the opportunity to care for people who may not have a medical home because they’re scared about infection. It’s nice for them to have this option to hop onto a virtual platform anywhere and be seen by a provider.”

The pandemic affects everyone, Dr. Burke says, but children, in particular, have been affected emotionally because of limited socialization, physical activity and educational opportunities.

“Most of the kids, on a physical level, do quite well if they get COVID, but with the social distancing and all of the restrictions with travel and sports, it does play a huge part emotionally, such as anxiety, depression and mood swings,” he says.

Telehealth allows children who are feeling stressed to consult with doctors from the comfort of their homes.

“These are great opportunities for us to intervene in a population which we otherwise would not have been able to so readily touch prior to the pandemic,” Dr. Senokozlieff says.

Telehealth allows children who are feeling stressed to consult with doctors from the comfort of their homes.

Philanthropic gifts could help buy equipment for virtual visits, Dr. Burke says. For COVID-19 cases, “we’re working on getting equipment for parents to attach to cell phones to listen to their children’s heart tones and breath sounds and take pictures of rashes and throats. This allows us to have a virtual visit with them in the home almost like they’re in the office.”

Philanthropy can help elevate the level of care that Medina Hospital provides to young patients, Dr. Senokozlieff says.

“It can help improve our physical space and resources, such as audiovisual equipment, scales and stethoscopes that can be

used to follow up with patients who have symptoms, or with wellness initiatives to keep patients out of the office. Our initial conversations with regard to philanthropy were very timely, and we are really grateful for the support that philanthropy gives us to further serve our community and improve our resources to do so virtually.”

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## Therapy Table Purchased



Philanthropic gifts recently went toward purchasing this bariatric wound care table for use in the Medina Medical Office Building’s Physical Therapy Department. The table improves therapists’ ability to evaluate and treat patients’ wounds by providing a more appropriate platform. The wider table offers patients greater safety and security, and the automatic head tilt and manual foot tilt improves positioning. The table’s electronic height adjustment improves safety for patient transfers and caregivers’ ergonomics.

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## Memorial Listing

*Recent gifts have been made in memory of Janet Steele Katherine Merkle Glenn & Jolea Swann*

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# What is Your Legacy?

The pandemic quarantine environment has left many people feeling unsettled. They have been forced to take a break from their typical fast-paced lives, which has given them time to contemplate their lives and their mortality. They now have time to consider what their legacy will be when they leave this world.

I often meet with clients who do not have children or family members to whom they would like to leave an inheritance. Recently, I spoke with clients who were fortunate enough to have very successful children who will not need an inheritance from their parents. This gives my clients a wonderful opportunity to really make an impact on their community. Even if they believe their estate to be modest, the impact of their gift on a charity could truly be significant.

As an estate planning attorney, I assist with the mechanics of allocating assets to a beneficiary efficiently and tax-effectively. However, I often find myself asking clients non-legal questions, too, such as: “What’s important to you?” “What part of our community would you like to impact?” “What improvements would you like to see for future generations?” I advise them not to underestimate their power to make a difference through charitable giving, now or on their death.

Charitable giving can be accomplished through a variety of mechanisms that may provide tax benefits and/or easy

administration of an estate. Appreciated stocks are a perfect gift to charity. If you give this stock during your lifetime, the charity could sell it and avoid the capital gains tax that you otherwise would have to pay. You also can bequeath the appreciated stock to a charity upon your death through a “Transfer on Death” allocation. This allows the charity to receive it outside of the probate process.

Life insurance is another easy way to give, by naming the charity as the beneficiary to the policy. IRA funds, too, are ideal for benefiting a charity both during your lifetime and/or upon your death. During your lifetime, you can allocate your required minimum distributions directly to the charity, which allows you to avoid paying income tax on these distributions. On your death, you can name the charity as the beneficiary to receive the IRA. This way, the charity would not have to pay income taxes on those funds (whereas an individual beneficiary would). You also can name a charity as a beneficiary in your Last Will and Testament. Any probate assets you may have (i.e. your residence) could be sold, and proceeds from the sale could help that charity tremendously.

What will be your legacy? What is important to you? How would you like to impact your community? Even if you allocate only a percentage of your assets to charity, you truly can make a difference to an individual in need, to a community, and to yourself.

*Ann E. Salek is an attorney with the Medina office of Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston. She is certified by the Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA) in estate planning, probate and trust law and is a Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Association of Elder Law attorneys and the OSBA. She also is a Medina Hospital Foundation Board member.*



**Medina Hospital Foundation**

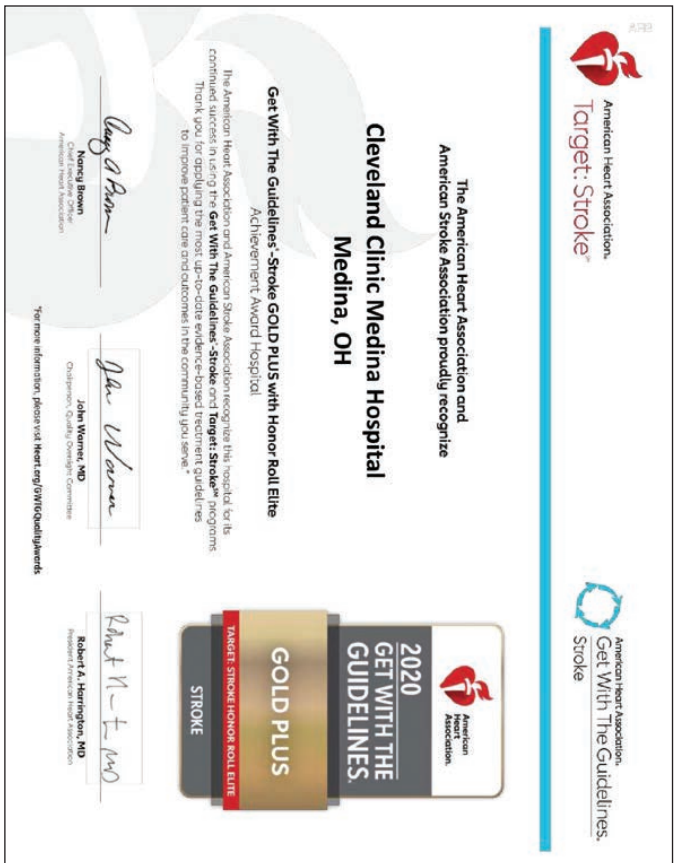
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**Stroke Care Honored**

Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital's stroke team has been recognized with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus-Target: Stroke Elite Honor Roll Award.

This achievement was the result of maintaining high quality and positive patient outcomes, as well as providing rapid treatment, for two consecutive years.

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