

# Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Ector County Independent School District

Odessa, Texas

And

Texas Tech Department of Family and Community Medicine

Odessa, Texas

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets the terms and understanding between the Ector County Independent School District "ECISD" and the Texas Tech School of Medicine Department of Family and Community Medicine for establishing a School-Based Clinic using telemedicine equipment connecting the school nurse office with Texas Tech Family Medicine.

## Background

School-based medical clinics (SBMCs) help improve the lives of children because they bring much needed medical services to students where they are, in school. SBMCs support student success because healthy students are better learners. The following are advantages of SBMCs:

- Students have direct access to health care providers while they are at school.
- Students do not have to miss as much class time.
- Parents do not have to miss work to take their child to the doctor.
- Transportation problems are reduced.
- Physical illnesses are identified and addressed quicker; absenteeism may be reduced.
- Emergency Room visits are reduced.
- Referrals are made to Texas Tech Family Medicine locally for services not provided at the SBMC due to level of illness and needing a face to face consultation.

## Purpose/Goals

This MOU will provide direct medical services by a Family Doctor (MD) as follows:

- Physical assessment and treatment of acute illnesses
- Treatment plans and medication management for chronic diseases that are stable
- Rapid intervention for acute illness before disease progresses

The above goals will be accomplished by undertaking the following activities:

The School Nurse will identify a student needing medical services and contact the parent/guardian for their involvement. The School Nurse will refer the parents to Texas Tech Family Medicine and connect the two parties to discuss financial/health insurance arrangements. Texas Tech Family Medicine will obtain parental consent through support by the School Nurse. An appointment will be made for the telemedicine visit at school. Should students need to be seen during school closure days, the parents will transport the student to Texas Tech Family Medicine. Texas Tech Family Medicine will maintain all medical records as if the student was being seen in person. No confidential patient information will be shared with ECISD without

written parental consent. Medications prescribed will be the responsibility of parents. Where possible the MD will call in prescriptions to the pharmacy of parent's choice. Return appointments will be scheduled through the School Nurse. Strict patient confidentiality will be observed.

### **Medical Problems Handled by Telemedicine Visits**

Possible medical illnesses which could be handled by telemedicine include the following:

- Sore throat, red, swollen tonsils, fever with possible strep infection
- Ear pain, fever, with possible infection
- Pink eye
- Sinus infections
- Flu symptoms
- Skin rashes
- Other pediatric common symptoms seen by family doctors

A majority of medical complaints involving children can be treated by telemedicine using equipment that visualizes the inner ear, the throat, and the skin of children. The physician is able to see even better, high definition pictures of these physical areas of the human body. Heart and lung illnesses can also be evaluated using telemedicine equipment. Complaints needing further medical investigation, or complaints requiring a face to face consult will be referred to local physicians at Texas Tech Family Medicine. The school nurse will be trained to capture these images using the telemedicine equipment and to examine the student with the help of the physician and the equipment.

### **Reporting**

A committee made up of ECISD Administrators and Texas Tech Family Medicine Department members will evaluate services provided and determine if telemedicine services should continue year to year. Factors to consider will be number of students seen and overall findings in terms of diagnoses made and treatment successes or failures. Reports will be made to the ECISD Board of Trustees on an annual basis.

### **Funding**

ECISD will not be responsible for patient payment to Texas Tech Family Medicine. Individual financial arrangements are to be made between the student's parents and Texas Tech. No medical services will ever be billed to ECISD. All medical equipment will be paid for and maintained by Texas Tech Family Medicine; equipment and software will be HIPAA and FERPA compliant.

### **Liability**

Texas Tech Department of Family and Community Medicine will assume all medical liability for medical care provided to students; the telemedicine service will be viewed the same as current medical services involving outpatients seen at Texas Tech Family Medicine clinic. ECISD already has an MOU joining Texas Tech Department of Psychiatry and students of ECISD treated through Telemedicine. The Department of Family and Community Medicine will be using the same internal systems as what is being used by Psychiatry. To lower possible medical risk, ECISD Nursing staff will assist the Texas Tech Department of Family and Community Medicine by providing background information on each student once written consent is obtained.

**Duration**

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from ECISD and Texas Tech Family Medicine. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the ECISD and Texas Tech School of Medicine and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent and continue from year to year.

**Contact Information**

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\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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