



**AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA
CENTER FOR TELEHEALTH**

**Digital
Inclusion**

The **MCG Center for Telehealth** addresses Georgia's health care disparities by leveraging technology to connect patients to academic healthcare utilizing MCG's educational campuses and Georgia's academic medical center.



Our Mission is to decrease health care disparities across Georgia through Digital Inclusion.

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Chair for Telehealth
Director, MCG
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Our Free Monthly
Interdisciplinary
Rural-Focused
Education



The Rural Hospital Virtual Care Network, an initiative spearheaded by the MCG Center for Telehealth, employs a multifaceted approach to improve clinical excellence, medical education, and research. Launched in 2018, this startup network aims to strengthen rural hospitals across Georgia. Collaborating closely with these hospitals and their communities, the program champions "community-focused telehealth," tailoring specialty healthcare services to meet the unique needs of rural patients and rural community hospitals.

Program goals:

- *Patient Centered Care* - Provide patients access to academic medical resources in their community hospital for high quality and specialized care and service close to home.
- *Rural Hospital Complex Care Support* - Improve rural hospital performance by providing supportive consult care on complex-care emergency department and hospital admission patients and through easily accessible rurally-focused, rural health care team development education.
- *Expediting Patient Care when every second counts* - Help rural hospitals identify emergencies and help provide specialty care for the patient in the right place at the right time.

Telemedicine connects services to rural communities for emergency department and admitted patients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Since inception, the program has treated nearly 4,000 patients with over 12,000 patient encounters and less than a 25% transfer rate. More patients are able to stay in their rural hospital, still getting world-class care by specialists but closer to home, without disrupting patients and their families and caregivers' lives. Rural hospitals are able to care for more patients to stay open and financially viable.

Planned for 2024 is the addition of Tele-OB ED services to identify and speed up treatment of obstetric emergencies in rural emergency departments. Through telehealth, mothers can obtain necessary monitoring of their unborn child through non stress test (toco) monitoring, identification of prenatal or postpartum high blood pressure and faster care for other obstetrical emergencies such as postpartum hemorrhage.

