

Telemedicine Options for Osteopathic Treatment

Dear Patients,

Observing the continued impact of COVID closures across the country, it is clear that we will be dealing with limitations in various degrees for the foreseeable future. While our clinic doors have been closed, we at the Osteopathic Consultants have remained open and available to care in various ways – through our acute call line, emergency in-person visits and telemedicine appointments. As we move into the next phase of re-opening, these will continue, and in-person routine appointments begin again, according to county, state and national guidelines. I offer here further insight into the use and utility of telemedicine for your care.

Remote visits have been key in maintaining access for patients across all specialties. During this time of physical clinic closure, I have been exploring options available to continue care for patients from a distance, improving and expanding methods of remote visits. Conversation and listening have always been crucial tools and I am finding remote visits provide advantages in focus and advancement, particularly in addressing underlying causes of pain and accessing inherent healing capacity.

Osteopathic manipulative treatment is an amazing tool to address structural obstructions to health. It is a way that we hear and support the body toward healing. Osteopathic physicians are trained to be good listeners – with our hands, our head and our hearts.

Dr. Hagie and Dr. Michael Thomas are fully equipped with the appropriate PPE in the office to see in person those who are ready, willing and able to present to the office for care – I encourage those who desire to follow through with appointments in the office setting. Dr. Moreaux is exploring telemedicine options with further details to follow.

If you feel the focus of remote visits would be good for the focus of your care, or if you need the avenue to more stringently avoid risk of exposure to coronavirus, telemedicine is an option available. Technology offers opportunity in this time to offer connection, communication and collaboration while maintaining physical distancing.

I offer opportunity to engage remotely and continue the work toward healing for relief of pain, increase in function, management of stress, challenges with sleep and optimization of health on all levels. To my patients and also to those who have spent years in the care of Dr. Patrick Wedlake and Dr. Steven Thomas, I invite you to explore this option – it is a time of transition and this is one opportunity available to you.

If you'd like to explore this option, use this [scheduling link](#) or e-mail me at thisosteopathiclife@gmail.com.

I look forward to continuing this journey toward best health together.

Sincerely,

Amelia L. Bueche, D.O.

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FAQ:

Q: Are these visits billed to my insurance?

A: Yes, these will be billed as a typical office visit, based on time. You are responsible for co-pay/co-insurance/deductible consistent with your insurance plan.

Q: Can I e-mail you with health questions?

A: No, the e-mail address is not secure for transmission of health information and should only be used for the logistics of scheduling. Please do your best to work within the available times on the scheduler before seeking an alternative time.

Q: How are the appointments held?

A: Through the scheduler, you will receive a Zoom link, this can be accessed through a computer or phone and does require a camera. Zoom has been approved as secure for health care appointments – each link is unique, you will be admitted to a waiting room and the chat is disabled for optimal security. If you do not wish to use Zoom, you can notify me at thisosteopathiclife@gmail.com and I will initiate the appointment through Doximity, which is another secure video service. Through Doximity, you will receive a text message at the time of your appointment and click on the link to log in.

Q: How long are the appointments?

A: Currently appointments are 30 minutes as with an office follow up for established patients.

Q: Are you taking new patients?

A: Yes. For a patient new to me, the visit would be extended to 60 minutes and would require new patient paperwork to be completed in advance. This can be e-mailed to you and returned via fax at 865-285-1310 for review in advance of the appointment.

Q: Are you still part of the Osteopathic Consultants?

A: Yes. I remain part of the group, taking call and collaborating with my colleagues, Dr. Hagie, Dr. Thomas and Dr. Moreaux. Billing will still be through the office and I am in regular contact with Rhochelle regarding patient questions and paperwork.