



# Telehealth vs. In-Person Visits:

## Exploring the Convenience Factor

The convenience of connecting with a doctor on the phone or via online video chat is reason enough to continue telehealth doctor visits even after the health crisis is over.

Telehealth visits are quickly becoming the preferred way for patients and doctors to connect with each other. There are a number of reasons for the rise in popularity of virtual visits, even beyond the recent necessity created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here's a quick comparison of the two methods of medical delivery.

	In-Person Visit	Telehealth Visit
Average amount of time spent	121 minutes	15 minutes
Average patient cost per visit	\$176	\$0 - \$50
Travel required	Yes	No
Urgent care issues handled	Yes	Yes
Available for specialist appointments	Yes	No
Appointment availability	Appointments are often not available for days, weeks, or even months.	Same-day or next-day appointments are often available.
Diagnoses made	Yes	Yes
Treatment plans provided	Yes	Yes
Percentage of time patient spends with physician rather than simply waiting to see one	20%	95%
Issues addressed	Most non-emergency issues + physical exams	Many non-emergency issues, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allergies</li> <li>• Asthma flare-ups</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Respiratory infection, like colds, flu, cough, or sinus issue</li> <li>• Headaches</li> <li>• Non-emergency infections</li> <li>• Joint pain</li> <li>• Nausea and vomiting</li> <li>• Skin irritation, rash, infection, insect bite, or small wound</li> <li>• Requisitions for lab work</li> <li>• Reviewing test or lab results</li> <li>• Follow-ups</li> <li>• Prescriptions</li> </ul>

Looking at these comparisons, it's easy to see that telehealth is a quick, convenient, money-saving way to get the medical care you need.

With a health sharing program, the cost of telehealth visits is often substantially less than the cost of in-person visits. In fact, some programs have a \$0 consult fee for a basic telehealth visit.

[Click here to see how much you can save with a health share program.](#)