



Comprehensive Psychiatric Care, P.C.

200 W Town St
Norwich, CT
06360

205 Old Boston Post Rd
Old Saybrook, CT
06475

Please accept this letter in my absence to the public testimony via zoom today as I have scheduled patients.

I am writing to applaud the efforts of Governor Lamont. The Governor has made receiving medical attention during the pandemic more than just an option. By advocating for telehealth services to be utilized statewide, the probability for patients to remain untreated to protect themselves from the pandemic has reached a fairly minimal amount, while allowing the COVID 19 curve to "flatten out" during crisis.

When the pandemic began in March 2020, Governor Lamont recognized the need to encourage the use of telehealth, resulting in consistent treatment to patients while they are unable to attend office meetings regarding their health. He further advocated the requirement of tele health being an option in the future by issuing Executive Order No. 7G on 03/14/21.

Also, in a recent press release, mentioned on the State of Connecticut's official state website Lamont states, *"Telehealth services have been necessary, as well as overwhelmingly popular during the pandemic I am committed to working with the legislature to allow healthcare providers and patients to continue using these services beyond April 20, when this executive order will expire."*

Thus, offering a glimmer of hope to patients, and practices alike. As with increased telehealth appointments there is a direct correlation to a decrease of transmission of the virus, and a decrease in "no-show" appointments. However, practices are benefiting as well. For example, by having the ability to treat patients using telehealth it requires clinicians to teach patients how to care for themselves between clinical visits, increasing self-awareness. Tele health also allows patients to experience decreased healthcare costs while decreasing practice overhead, resulting in financial growth for both patient and provider.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter. I look forward to following this topic as time passes in hopes for a positive alternative to patient needs that have already proven worth and value to so many.

Sincerely,

Hope A. Whitman
Medical Technician
Comprehensive Psychiatric Care

M.S. OKASHA, M.D., D.L.F.A.P.A., MEDICAL DIRECTOR