



## About IRSCN



The Indiana Rural Schools Clinic Network (IRSCN) is a newly created collaborative partnership between the Indiana Rural Health Association, Rural Indiana Schools, Rural Healthcare Providers and Managed Care Entities. The mission of the IRSCN is to improve children's health in rural communities by improving access to care and removing barriers through planning and implementing school-based telehealth clinics. In September 2016, the IRHA was awarded a HRSA grant that provided the ability to fund telehealth equipment to participating IRSCN Schools.



### See the doctor (or licensed professional) at school, anytime!

The school nurse initiates an examination of children with symptoms or injuries together with a doctor or licensed practitioner using secure videoconferencing and special sensing equipment.



### No insurance? No worries.

Insured children are always a major plus, but options are available for healthcare to non-insured children. No child is denied healthcare because of an inability to pay.



### Children don't miss class.

Treatment of minor injuries or infections in school means children don't have to leave school for an examination.



### Parents and guardians don't have to interrupt or miss work!

In-school treatment means no parent or guardian has to leave work.



## Transforming Healthcare Delivery to Children in Schools



# Introducing the Indiana Rural Schools Clinic Network (IRSCN)

## What is Telehealth?

Telehealth is the use of technology to deliver healthcare, health information or health education at a distance. Telehealth, also called telemedicine, allows health care professionals to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients in remote locations using telecommunications technology. The patient has a “virtual office visit” with the provider via secure and confidential channels through the use of computer cameras, telehealth equipment and speakers.

## How does it work?

Care is delivered in the school setting through a telehealth connection between the healthcare provider and the school nurse or school personnel. Telehealth equipment includes a full exam camera, telemedicine-enabled stethoscopes and otoscopes, and videoconference. School-based telehealth services are utilized for acute illnesses and management of ongoing chronic diseases.



The provider examines the patient through high-definition visual and audio equipment with the assistance of the school nurse/personnel and is able to identify a treatment plan and prescribe medication if needed. Parental consent is given beforehand, and parents/guardians are always invited to participate in the appointment. Follow-up notes are sent to the child's primary care provider for their records and further coordination of care. Fees are billed directly to insurance providers (consent form must be on file), similar to how services would be billed in a doctor's office.

## What if my child already has a doctor?

That's great! This program does not replace your child's primary care provider. The clinic is meant to supplement the care your child receives. The school clinic provides accessible, same-day appointments for children, so they can spend less time at the doctor's office and more time in the classroom. Common illnesses like the flu, strep, ear infections,

pink eye, and lice can all be diagnosed while at school; and a prescription can be ready for pick up on the way home. Your child's doctor will be notified of the visit as well, so you can do a follow-up appointment if necessary.

## Family Benefits and Advantages

- Fewer missed school days for students and missed work days for parents
- Prescriptions can be sent to a local pharmacy for later pick up by parents
- Removes transportation barriers
- Faster access to primary care
- Decrease in emergency room visits
- Improved management of chronic diseases
- Improve academic performance
- Improved continuity of care
- Increase in behavioral health assessments
- Children get healthier faster!

