# What you need to know about telepharmacy in Utah

#### What is telepharmacy?

Telepharmacy is the delivery of pharmaceutical care via telecommunications to patients at a distance, or in areas where they may not have direct access to a pharmacist.

### How does telepharmacy work?

Think of a community telepharmacy as an extension of your current pharmacy. A retail telepharmacy is a licensed brick-and-mortar pharmacy staffed by a certified pharmacy technician. A pharmacist supervises the telepharmacy, or remote dispensing site, from a traditional pharmacy.

## Legislative overview

 A remote dispensing pharmacy shall: [...] be located in an area of need as defined in Subsection R156-17b-102 (4)



There are **26** communities\* located 10 or more miles away from the nearest pharmacy in Utah. This presents a big opportunity for pharmacists.

- "Area of need" means: A remote-rural hospital [...], A county in the fourth, fifth or sixth class [...], or Any area where a demonstration of need is approved by the Division in collaboration with the Board, based on any factors affecting the access of a persons in that area to pharmacy resources
- A supervising pharmacy may not supervise more than two remote dispensing pharmacies simultaneously
- Each pharmacy technician staffing a remote dispensing pharmacy shall have at least 500 hours of pharmacy experience
- At all times that a remote dispensing pharmacy is open and available to serve patients. all pharmacy technicians shall remain under the physical supervision or electronic supervision of a supervising pharmacist at the supervising pharmacy

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

There are **22** communities\* in Utah that could potentially lose their only local pharmacy.

"Telepharmacy is a tool that we can use to provide services to communities struggling to keep their pharmacy, and also to reach out to new communities that currently don't have pharmacies."

Brett Barker, RPh, Iowa BOP member, and VP of Operations at Nucara Pharmacy

\*According to our independent research









