

# Partners **in** Care Journal

Continuing Dialogue Between Primary and Specialty Care

APRIL 2018



## FEATURED

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**Gillette Offers  
Full Spectrum of Pediatric  
Orthopedic Care**

*By Jennifer Laine, MD*

**Virtual Care Offers  
Respite for Rural Families**

*By Walter Truong, MD*

*Jennifer Laine, MD*





## Gillette Offers Full Spectrum of Pediatric Orthopedic Care

*By Jennifer Laine, MD*

A significant portion of the patients who we see at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare have complex, long-term disabilities. But through our Acute Orthopedic Clinic, we also offer care and treatment for patients dealing with injuries and other short-term disabilities.

We know that musculoskeletal concerns are one of the most frequent reasons patients present to their primary care provider. We also know that there are a number of pediatric hospitals in the Twin Cities. It can be confusing for patients and families to know where to go when their child is injured. If you have a patient who is dealing with a musculoskeletal issue that may require a referral, I hope you'll consider contacting the experts at Gillette. We'll help get your patient to the right provider to address their specific orthopedic problem.

Given our specialty care focus, Gillette has one of the highest concentrations of pediatric orthopedic surgeons in the nation, and the size of our team allows for a degree of specialization not found at other facilities. For example, we have orthopedists who specialize in spine care, lower extremities, upper extremities and hips.

At the Gillette Acute Orthopedic Clinic, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon will evaluate and treat your patient for injury, infection or other acute concerns of the bones or muscles. Patients can take advantage of same or next-day appointments, Monday through Friday. Most patients are referred for a timely visit with a highly trained pediatric orthopedist, without the need for an expensive emergency room visit. Additionally, if you have an orthopedic concern about a patient, we have a pediatric orthopedic surgeon on-call around the clock. We are happy to answer your questions about management and help with the appropriate timing for referral.

We want the care your patient receives to be as efficient as possible, and we're here as a resource and trusted partner in the care you provide. If you have questions about a patient, please don't hesitate to call.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Laine

**For more information about care at Gillette, or to learn how you can refer your patients, please call 651-325-2200 or 855-325-2200 (toll-free).**

## Comprehensive Assistive Technology at Gillette

Many children and teens who have disabilities require assistive technology services to help manage their conditions. At Gillette, your patients can work with experts who provide special technology for complex conditions.

"Our work is very much integrated through collaboration with our specialists and therapists," says Bradley Fisher, manager of Assistive Technology at Gillette. "It's a tremendous advantage to have our staff on-site working together, and it ensures that each brace or orthosis we make is perfectly tailored to the patient we're treating."

### What We Do

To meet your patients' needs, our internationally recognized experts work in teams to develop custom treatment plans that might include assistive devices like:

- Artificial limbs (prostheses)
- Braces (orthoses)
- Computer-access equipment and electronic aids for daily living

- Evaluations and mounts for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices
- Power wheelchair controls
- The Gillette CranioCap® orthosis to treat deformational plagiocephaly
- Wheelchair seating

Through collaboration with therapists and other specialists, our certified orthotists, prosthetists and seating practitioners support comprehensive patient care.





## Virtual Care Offers Respite for Rural Families

*By Walter Truong, MD*

At Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, we recognize that traveling to our St. Paul, Minnesota hospital, especially during the winter months, can present a serious barrier when it comes to patients in rural areas receiving the care they need. This is the main reason we operate multiple clinics throughout the Twin Cities as well as in greater Minnesota.

With that said, we knew that we could do more for our patients and referring primary care providers. This is why we are currently in the process of building out and expanding our virtual care capabilities over the coming year.

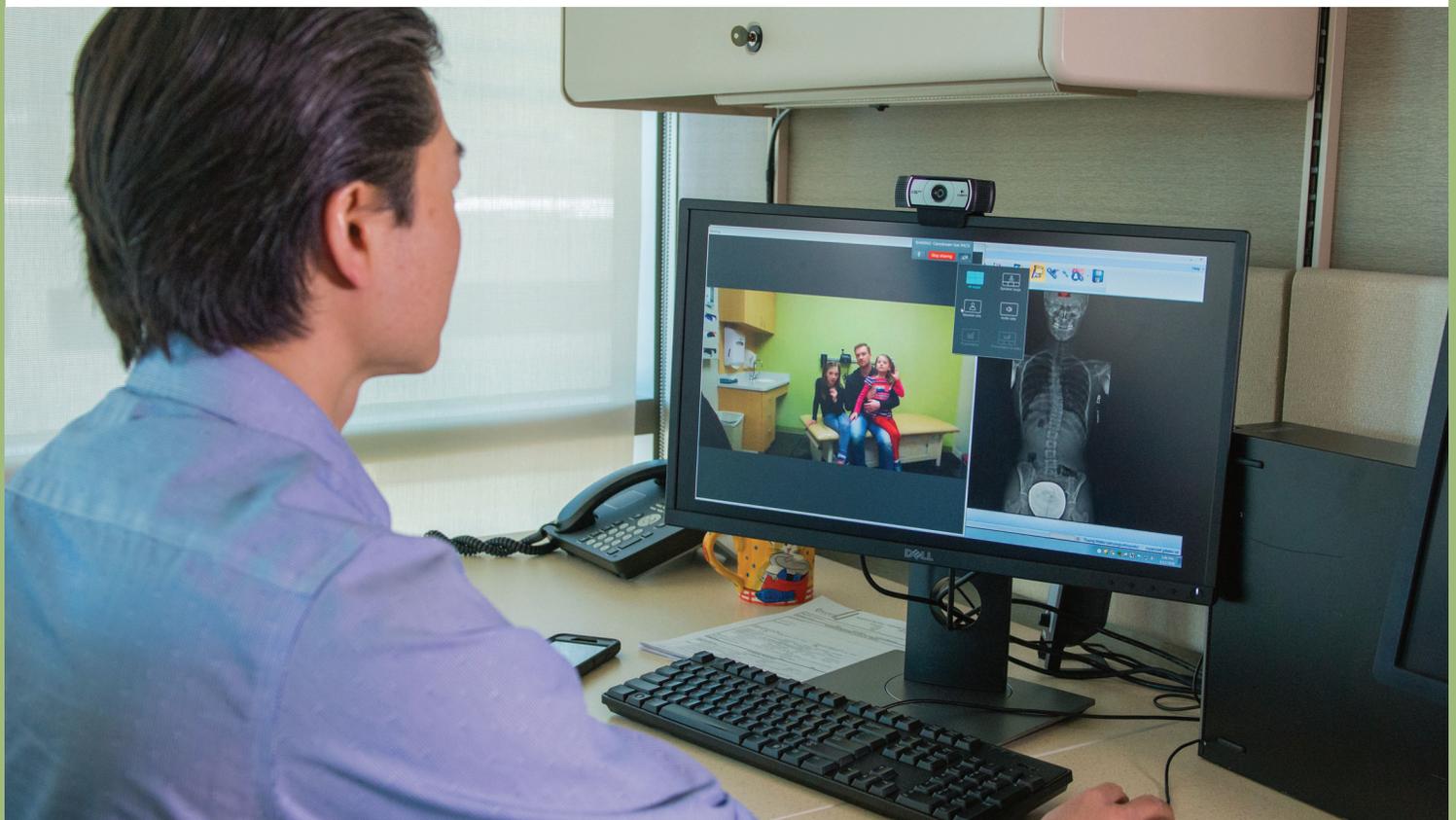
There are many situations and patient conditions that can be evaluated virtually. Collaboration with local providers is essential. We're successfully working with local nurses to assess our patients' vitals, ask our initial intake questions and help with other on-site needs such as imaging and lab draws. The end-result? A productive appointment and clear next steps for families without the cost or burden of travel.

Though the care process is obviously different, once patients become comfortable with the technology, we've found that families are very appreciative of this convenient option. Virtual care offers a middle ground for you to offer to your patients, especially for those who may be reticent to make the long trip to the Twin Cities.

Virtual consults are more efficient for everyone involved, and present the opportunity to find answers to lingering questions or new concerns. If you have a patient who could potentially benefit from a virtual care consult, contact us and we'll work with you to ensure the best care possible.

Thank you,  
Walter Truong

**For more information about virtual care at Gillette or to schedule a consult, please call 651-325-2200 or 855-325-2200 (toll-free).**



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*Partners in Care Journal* is a publication of Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare.

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Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare provides specialized health care for people who have short-term or long-term disabilities that began during childhood. We help children, adults and their families improve their health, achieve greater well-being and enjoy life.

To refer a patient, call 651-325-2200  
855-325-2200 (toll-free)  
[gillettechildrens.org](http://gillettechildrens.org)



**Gillette  
Children's**

*Specialty Healthcare*

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Twin Cities, MN  
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*In 1897, Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare became the nation's first hospital serving children who have disabilities. Gillette concentrates on delivering effective treatments to a defined patient population—children who have complex disabilities, rare conditions and traumatic injuries. Care is organized around patients' most common conditions, including cerebral palsy, neurological conditions, craniofacial issues,*

*orthopedic problems, brain and spinal cord injury, and neuromuscular disorders. Our long history means we've learned more about these conditions and their effective treatments than other facilities. We're committed to using that knowledge to advance treatment options and work with primary care partners to improve the lives of our patients.*