



MEDIA RELEASE

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Partners Offer Telemedicine, Expanded Pediatric Services in South Georgia *Children's Hospital, Tift Regional and Georgia Partnership for Telehealth Unite*

MACON, GA (Friday, August 28, 2015) – Children's Hospital, Navicent Health (CHNH) in Macon, Ga. and Tift Regional Medical Center (TRMC) in Tifton, Ga. have joined with Georgia Partnership for Telehealth (GPT), a nonprofit organization promoting the establishment of telemedicine programs in communities throughout Georgia, to establish a pediatric telemedicine clinic at TRMC.

The partnership will benefit pediatric patients living in rural areas of south Georgia who will no longer need to travel to Macon for physician appointments with CHNH's numerous pediatric, pediatric gastroenterology and pediatric endocrinology specialists. Instead, the patients may travel the much shorter distance to Tifton and – through telemedicine – be seen by the Macon specialists at TRMC.

The partners plan to hold their first telemedicine appointment on Friday, August 28.

“Navicent Health, Tift Regional Health System and Georgia Partnership for Telehealth are committed to serving patients in the right place at the right time, and for the right cost. Through telemedicine, patients may remain close to home for the healthcare services that they need while continuing to receive the high quality services and personalized care they have enjoyed at Children's Hospital, Navicent Health,” said Dr. Ninfa M. Saunders, President and CEO of Navicent Health.

Many CHNH patients currently travel two to three hours for physician appointments in Macon. This not only requires the child to miss a school day, but also causes the parent or caregiver to miss a day of work while incurring travel expenses. CHNH, TRMC and GPT hope to relieve this burden through the new telemedicine clinic.

“This clinic will be incredibly convenient for families in south Georgia, and we are pleased to offer this option to those pediatric patients who need specialized care. In addition, patients will be able to obtain all ordered diagnostic and laboratory testing at Tift Regional without having to travel to Macon. Each member of this partnership is committed to providing convenient, cost effective, high quality care for our region's pediatric patients,” said William T. Richardson, CEO of TRMC.

The partnership will not only benefit patients and families in rural areas, but will allow CHNH to see additional patients in the Macon area. The partners hope to provide additional pediatric subspecialties, such as pediatric hematology and pediatric oncology, to the Tifton area in the future.

Navicent Health and Tift Regional Health System are founding members of Stratus Healthcare, a non-equity collaborative of hospitals, health systems and providers dedicated to keeping healthcare local with the goal of improving outcomes, enhancing the patient experience and increasing efficiency as required

by healthcare reform. TRMC also partners with GPT to provide telemedicine services for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, the first college in the state to house a telemedicine clinic.

About Navicent Health

Navicent Health was incorporated on November 17, 1994, as a nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is to coordinate the Medical Center, Navicent Health and other affiliated entities in their mission of providing a comprehensive continuum of high quality, reasonably priced healthcare services to the region. Navicent Health has 830 beds for medical, surgical, rehabilitation and hospice purposes. The health system includes Medical Center, Navicent Health, a nationally recognized tertiary teaching hospital; Children's Hospital, Navicent Health, the region's only dedicated pediatric hospital; Medical Center of Peach County, Navicent Health, a rural critical access hospital; Rehabilitation Hospital, Navicent Health, the region's oldest and most experienced rehabilitation provider; Pine Pointe Hospice, Navicent Health, which provides palliative and hospice care in homes and in its facility; Carlyle Place, Navicent Health, the area's first continuing care retirement community; Medcen Community Health Foundation, Navicent Health, the philanthropic arm of Navicent Health; as well as diagnostic and home care services.

About Georgia Partnership for Telehealth

Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth is a charitable nonprofit corporation, which was formed to promote improvements in healthcare and healthcare facilities in communities by assisting in the establishment of telemedicine programs. GPT is known as the leading agency globally focusing on increasing access to healthcare through innovative use of technology. GPT is one of the entities that belong to the Global Partnership for TeleHealth. The mission of the Global Partnership for TeleHealth is to deliver worldwide access to healthcare. Our unparalleled success in the United States in applying telehealth programs and services has assisted agencies in providing cost effective, efficient, and high quality healthcare. For more information visit the GPT website at <http://www.gatehealth.org>.

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