MobileDerm addresses disparities in skin health

**Skin Health**

This month, the “Take Charge Of Your Health Today” page focuses on the importance of your skin and recent dermatology advancements. The current COVID-19 pandemic has caused a disruption in dermatology clinics and required new ways to help care for patients. Erricka Hager and Dr. Alaina James, professor and director of the Department of Dermatology at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, address the importance of education.

**GB:** Good evening, Ms. Hager. This month’s topic is something that’s directly applicable to the health of your skin. We would love to hear what you think is the most important topic for us to discuss.

**EB:** Yes, Ms. Hager. I think it’s important that we address how skin health disparities play a major role in the skin care disparities. Dermatologists should be aware of how skin cancer can impact and cause delays in treatment. Questioning your doctor about bumps or spots on your skin can help to reduce risk for skin cancer.

**GB:** What are you researching to help debunk myths about skin care and skin cancer? I’m sure Dr. James and others at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine are identifying ways to address skin health disparities.

**EB:** Absolutely, Ms. Bush. I think the key thing is understanding that these misconceptions are eradication. Education about skin care and skin cancer prevention efforts will help to reduce skin health disparities. Dr. James has created a wonderful program called MobileDerm. MobileDerm turns a tele-dermatology model that allows the dermatologist to virtually take a patient’s photo and look at the skin, find moles, and provide feedback. Many patients reported that their wait time was reduced.

**GB:** I understand, Erricka. Education about skin care and skin cancer is important. We often encourage our readers to get physical exams regularly for cancer screening, but rarely provide sufficient information for how skin cancer is screened. I’m sure Dr. James and others at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine are doing this in an effective way. We’d love to hear about this and any other initiatives at UPMC.

**EB:** Thank you so much for your time, Dr. Bush. We appreciate it.

**GB:** It’s my pleasure. We appreciate the work you’re doing to help our community.

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**UPMC makes shift to telemedicine solutions**

Hospitals around the world look to technology to help them care for patients and to help limit the potential for exposure to the novel coronavirus. Telemedicine is taking on its role in responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. A similar trend is underway at UPMC. Because of the organization’s significant investments in laying the ground in preparation for years, providers are available for in-person care; however, preparations were not yet in place for a public health crisis. UPMC has experienced a massive shift in patient volume to its primary tele-medicine capabilities to the vast majority of its and E-Dermatology. She and the UPMC dermatology clinic with onsite pharmacy and procedures. Dr. James sees even inter-

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**For the latest news on Skin Health, visit [UPMC](https://www.chp.edu/services/medical-mo-clinic-checklist.html) for the most up-to-date locations and dates this summer!**

All clinics run from 10AM – 2PM

**Neighborhood**

**Location**

**Charter**

- Charters Early Childhood Center
  
  3797 Charters Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15204

- Charters Family Dollar
  
  533 Miller Ave., Clarksburg, PA 15030

- Charters Coraopolis
  
  1099 Maple St, Coraopolis, PA 15108

- Charters Homestead/Munhall
  
  Steel Valley Middle School
  
  611 X Haywood Road, Munhall, PA 15120

- Charters Homewood
  
  7140 Bert St, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

- Charters Natrona Heights
  
  6021 Freeport Rd, Natrona Heights, PA 15110

- Charters New Castle
  
  New Castle Jr./Sr High School
  
  400 E Lincoln Ave, New Castle, PA 16101

- Charters New Kensington
  
  Valley Parks Family YMCA
  
  3311 Bridgeview Blvd, New Kensington, PA 15068

- Charters North Side
  
  Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh
  
  7000 West End Blvd, Pgh, PA 15212

- Charters Penn Hills
  
  Penn Hills Family Care Connection
  
  1076 Ridge Rd, Penn Hills, PA 15135

- Charters Wilkinsburg School District
  
  718 Wallace Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15221

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**UPMC makes shift to telemedicine solutions**

In 2020, UPMC quickly provided telemedicine capabilities to its primary care physicians. These existing virtual care capabilities enabled UPMC to continue to provide primary care and dermatology care to patients and patients’ loved ones. UPMC is encouraging patients to continue to partner with their primary care physicians and dermatologists through video tele-ICU (intensive care unit) capability to make sure that patients have timely access to care, especially those with highest level of care at most patients. Telemedicine care is working.

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In 2020, UPMC made a shift to telemedicine solutions. UPMC quick provided telemedicine capabilities to its primary care physicians. These existing virtual care capabilities enabled UPMC to continue to provide primary care and dermatology care to patients and patients’ loved ones. UPMC is encouraging patients to continue to partner with their primary care physicians and dermatologists through video tele-ICU (intensive care unit) capability to make sure that patients have timely access to care, especially those with highest level of care at most patients. Telemedicine care is working. UPMC will continue to be at the forefront of telemedicine solutions. In the future, UPMC will continue to develop and expand, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine will continue to support telemedicine services. UPMC will continue to be at the forefront of telemedicine solutions. In the future, UPMC will continue to develop and expand, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine will continue to support telemedicine services.

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