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November 8, 2019

Ex Parte Notice

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

***Re: Ex Parte Meeting, WC Docket No. 18-213,
Promoting Telehealth for Low-Income Consumers***

Dear Ms. Dortch:


On November 6, 2019, the undersigned and Dr. David Houghton, Medical Director, Telemedicine and Chief of the Division of Movement & Memory Disorders and Vice-Chair of the Department of Neurology, April Radford, Vice President Telemedicine, Ochsner Health System, Julie Henry, Chief Operating Officer Ochsner Digital Medicine, and Ilisa Paul, President of the District Policy Group at Drinker Biddle & Reath, met with Commissioner Brendan Carr and his Legal Advisor, Joseph Calascione to discuss Ochsner's perspectives on the record of Comments and Reply comments on the Connected Care Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. These perspectives about how Ochsner currently offers remote monitoring to benefit patients with hypertension and other chronic conditions were consistent with and discussed in Ochsner's Comments and Reply Comments filed in the proceeding. Ochsner urged that the Commission use the Pilot to experiment with different types of program delivery structures, including those that are not predicated on health care providers receiving funding for a broadband connection to deliver health care services.

In a separate meeting also on November 6, 2019, the same Ochsner team met with Michael Carowitz, Special Counsel in the office of Chairman Ajit Pai, along with Wireline Competition Bureau Telecommunications Access Policy Division Chief Ryan Palmer, and Attorney Advisors Rashann Duval and Darren Fernandez. In addition to discussing how patients use Ochsner's remote monitoring capabilities to support better health outcomes, Ochsner demonstrated the use of one of its remote monitoring devices. We shared the attached documents to attendees in both meetings showing how patients can better manage hypertension using remote monitoring devices as well as the significantly enhanced health outcomes for patients that use remote monitoring as compared to traditional office visits only. Ochsner's discussion was consistent with its

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filed Comments and Reply Comments in the FCC's Connected Care record. Please direct any questions regarding this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

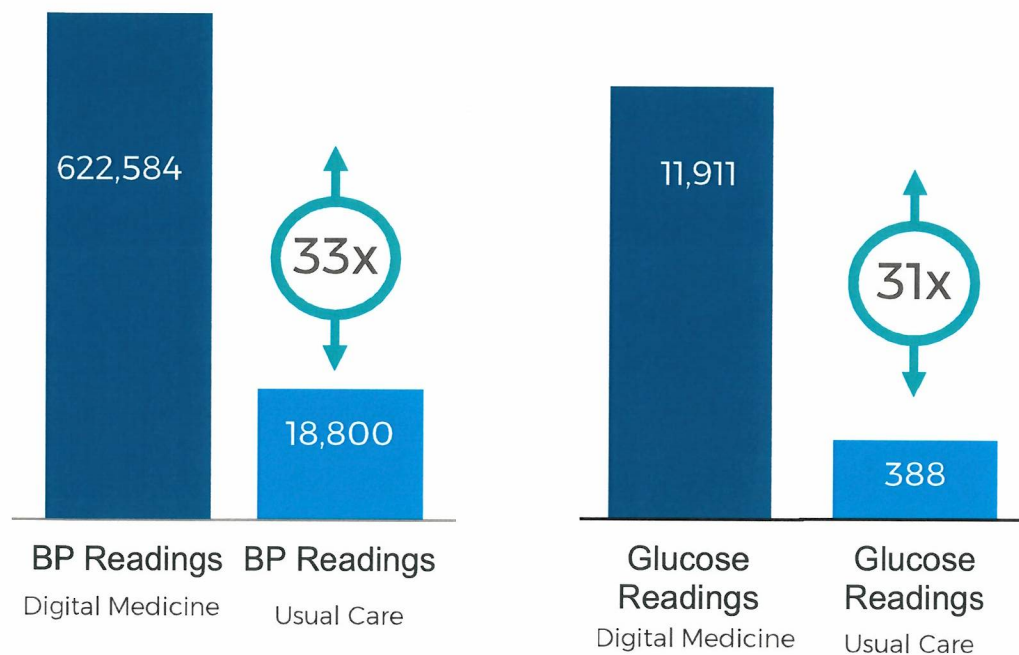

Laura H. Phillips

Counsel to Ochsner Health System

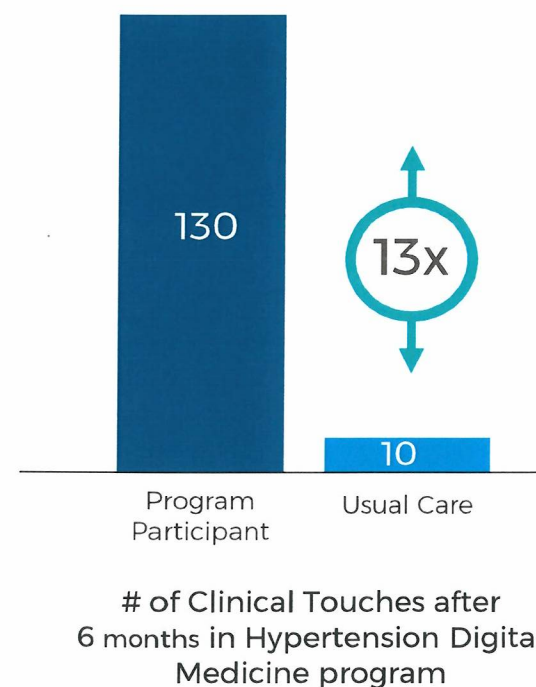
cc: Joseph Calascione
Michael Carowitz
Ryan Palmer
Rashann Duval
Darren Fernandez

Patient engagement and high-touch model allows for world class outcomes...

More data from Digital Medicine Programs...

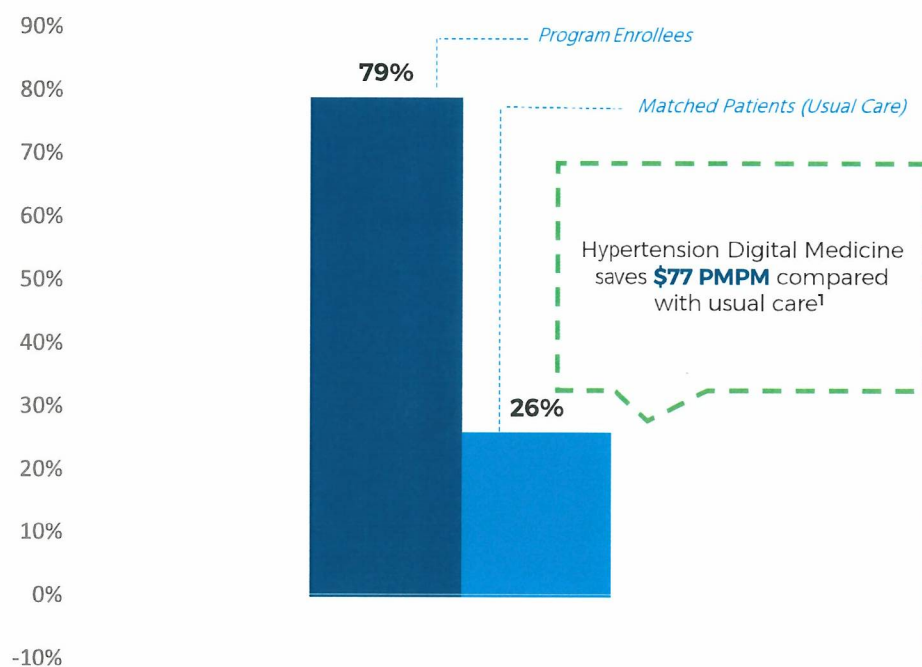


...leads to more opportunities to prevent adverse health events



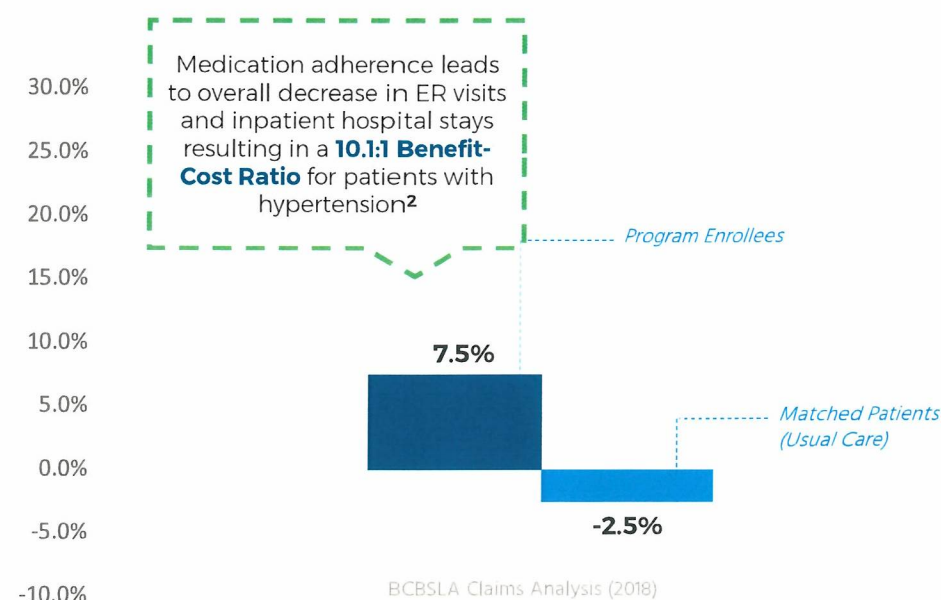
Hypertension Digital Medicine provides superior results over usual care

Patients Achieving Blood Pressure Control
After 6 months in Hypertension Digital Medicine



Tai-Seale M, Downing NL, Jones VG, Milani RV, et al. Health Affairs 2019;38:383-390.

Medication Adherence Increase
After 6 months in Hypertension Digital Medicine



BCBSLA Claims Analysis (2018)

¹ BCBSLA Analysis of Hypertension Digital Medicine in BlueConnect (Sept 2018)

² Medication Adherence Leads To Lower Health Care Use And Costs Despite Increased Drug Spending 10.1377/hlthaff.20091087 HEALTH AFFAIRS 30, NO. 1 (2011): 91-99

One in three American adults has hypertension, which occurs when the blood pressure inside your arteries is higher than it should be.

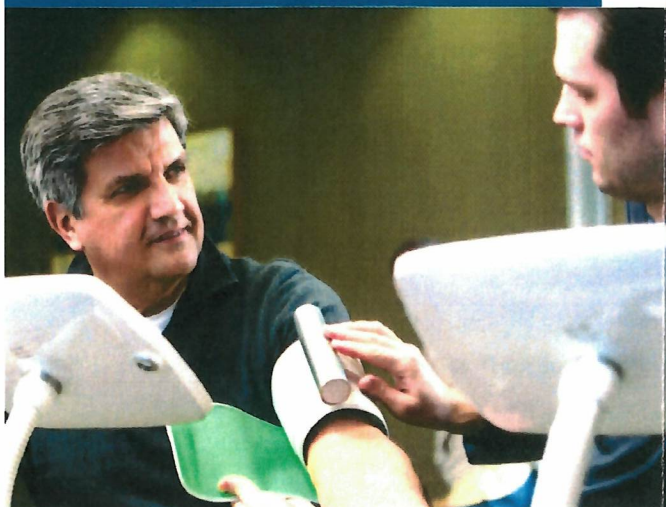
BP Category	Systolic BP		Diastolic BP
Normal	<120 mm Hg	and	<80 mm Hg
Elevated	120-129 mm Hg	and	<80 mm Hg
Hypertension Stage 1	130-139 mm Hg	or	80-89 mm Hg
Hypertension Stage 2	≥140 mm Hg	or	≥90 mm Hg

Source: American Heart Association, 2017.

Uncontrolled high blood pressure can cause severe health problems, including:

- Damage to the eyes, brain, heart, blood vessels and kidneys, as well as scarred and hardened arteries that can decrease blood flow and strain the heart.
- Heart attacks and heart failure.
- A four to six times increased risk of stroke.
- Possible kidney failure.
- Dementia, aneurysm, blindness and erectile dysfunction.

Our technology specialist can help you start tracking your blood pressure today.



Healthy Habits to Help Hypertension

While you're tracking your progress with the Hypertension Digital Medicine Program, what else can you do to bring down your blood pressure?

- ✓ Try to lose weight if you are overweight or obese.
- ✓ If you're a smoker, commit to quit.
- ✓ Eat a healthy diet, reducing your intake of processed foods and sodium.
- ✓ Exercise regularly – aim for at least 30 minutes per day, several days a week.
- ✓ Avoid and limit alcohol to two drinks per day for men or one drink per day for women.
- ✓ Try to reduce, or find healthy ways to manage, stress.

For moderate to severe hypertension – or if lifestyle changes are not enough – your doctor may prescribe one drug, or a combination of several different drugs, to treat your high blood pressure.



ENROLL OR LEARN MORE BY VISITING
ochsner.org/hypertensiondigitalmedicine

Hypertension Digital Medicine Program



Manage Hypertension on Your Schedule

The **Hypertension Digital Medicine Program** combines smart technology and the dedication of our hypertension team to treat your high blood pressure – all from the comfort of your home! Here's how it works:

Technology

With the press of one button on your easy-to-use monitor, you can take your blood pressure every day from anywhere – at home or at the office.

Teamwork

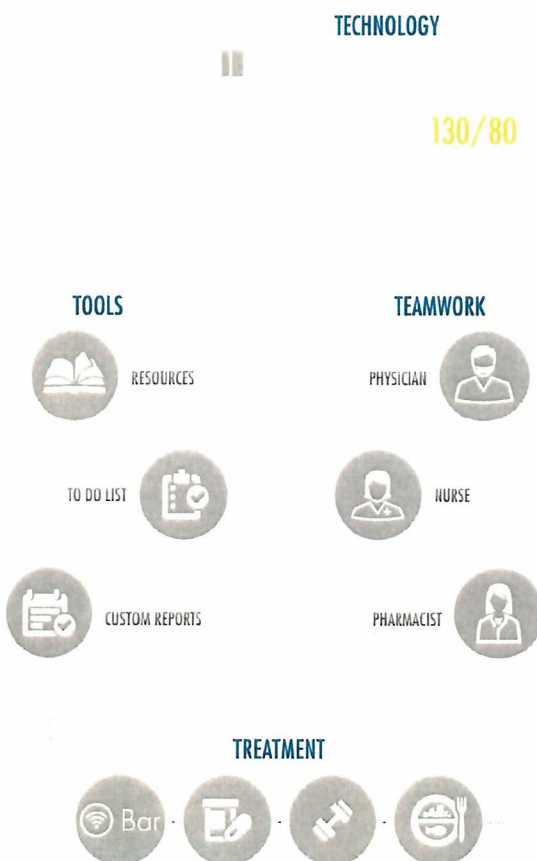
Your blood pressure data is automatically transmitted, via your smartphone, to your care team for review.

Treatment

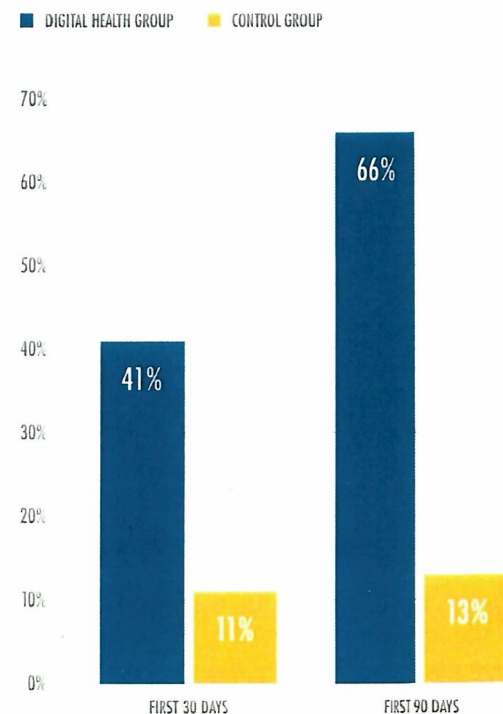
You receive regular feedback from your hypertension team, including recommendations for medication adjustments, exercise and healthy eating tips, and monthly progress reports.

"We're always looking for ways to better care for our patients. This program is tailored to each patient and gives them the freedom to manage their hypertension on their schedule."

— RICHARD MILANI, MD



Percentage of Ochsner Patients Achieving Blood Pressure Goal



"I feel a sense of peace and comfort knowing I'm under constant medical supervision and receiving high-quality care."

— Andres Rubiano, Hypertension Digital Medicine Patient

According to a recent patient satisfaction poll, 53% of patients saw their health improve with digital medicine monitoring vs. 45% Undergoing regular blood pressure care.