



Valley Health offering virtual office visits to heart patients

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Valley Health System is going beyond telehealth. The Ridgewood-based health network now is offering virtual office visits to the patients in its Snyder Center for Comprehensive Atrial Fibrillation unit, which, generally, treats people with irregular heartbeats.

Patients can access doctors via their computer, smartphone or tablet using real-time audio and video technology. The technology is being provided by **SnapMD**, company that specializes in telemedicine. Valley has partnered with SnapMD on the initiative.



With the new offering, patients can access doctors on their computer, smartphone or tablet.

The service will charge a flat fee of \$49.99, a spokesperson told NJBIZ. The service is not covered by health insurance but can be paid for using a patient's flexible spending accounts.

Valley electrophysiologists led by Dr. Suneet Mittal, head of the Atrial Fibrillation unit, or one of his colleagues in the department will be available to treat patients using the new service. To this point, telehealth in the state has mostly been practiced over the phone.

Vanguard Medical Group became the first network to offer telemedicine to all of its patients in October, while **Hackensack Meridian Health** offers telemedicine to patients in specialty units. **RWJBarnabas Health** recently began offering it to its roughly 50,000 employees at the beginning of this year.

“Our team believes in the total patient management approach,” Mittal said in a press release. “We work with patients to ensure they are getting the best available treatment for their atrial fibrillation, while also addressing other contributing health issues such as stress, hypertension, sleep apnea and obesity.”