



**Responding to  
COVID-19 with Data:  
Success Stories**

 **HealthCatalyst®**

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COVID-19 has laid bare the essential nature of access to comprehensive healthcare analytics. Organizations that have previously relegated advanced analytics as optional or aspirational capabilities are confronting an urgency for timely, data-informed decision making as they strategize around supply chain, capacity planning, financial recovery, virtual care, and more in the post-COVID-19 era.

Health systems have learned throughout the pandemic that a flexible, adaptable data infrastructure enables a robust response in times of crisis. Organizations that are faring best—maintaining ambulatory services, enabling effective incident command, restarting elective surgeries, and more—have this adaptable approach. From quality work to dashboards to revenue recovery, these organizations have used analytics to pivot during COVID-19 and emerge better prepared for future emergencies and with vital long-term operational strategies.

# Virtual Visits and Analytics Enable Continued Delivery of Ambulatory Services During COVID-19 Pandemic



## The Challenge

Texas Children's Hospital introduced virtual visits to increase appointment availability in 2019. With the emergence of COVID-19, Texas Children's was challenged to make data-informed decisions that would allow it to continue offering critically needed healthcare services, while ensuring the safety of its patients, staff, and providers.

## The Project

Texas Children's dramatically expanded telehealth capacity, converting most in-person primary, specialty, and mental healthcare visits to a phone or video appointment to better meet patient needs.

- COVID-19 Nurse Triage Line: Available 24/7, parents of patients can call and speak with a specially trained pediatric nurse, who provides basic COVID-19 information.
- Virtual Visits: Many women's services and pediatric in-person visits are occurring via a phone or video appointment.
- Texas Children's Pediatric Workflow Changes:

A physician reviews all appointment requests. If a patient's health screen indicates symptoms or exposure to COVID-19, the organization converts the patient to a phone or video appointment.

- Texas Children's Health Plan Provider Communications: The organization pushed out communications to its members, highlighting the delivery of virtual health services. The Center for Children and Women are conducting visits via phone.

The organization leverages the Health Catalyst® Data Operating System (DOS™) platform and a virtual health platform to visualize, monitor, and manage the conversion to virtual health, in addition to managing in-person visit volume. Texas Children's executive team and leaders review visit data each day, including daily visits volume and visit type (in-person, telephone, or video) by service line, and the number of available and scheduled visits each day.

## The Result

Texas Children's is using DOS and technology to meet the demand for healthcare, effectively managing outpatient capacity, utilization, and financial performance.

- Nearly 70X increase in the number of telehealth visits—in just two weeks. Approximately 11,000 weekly virtual health visits.
- 64 specialties providing virtual health visits—nearly 2,000 providers have completed a virtual health appointment.
- Successfully maintained pre-COVID-19 visit volumes.