

Medical technology coming to Butte

May 30, 2007 10:09 AM MDT

A new company called ENSI-MED says it wants to bring healthcare closer to patients in the Mining City. If you're sick and you want to see a doctor you most likely drive or be driven to a doctor's office or medical center. But in the very near future you could get medical help just by making a call, and seeing your doctor on a video screen.

ENSI-MED Chairman and CEO Benjamin McGainey maker says they aim to make Butte the telemedicine capital of the world and touts the benefits of the new technology.

"It's actually a regular telephone that works over the broadband. It's a phone that allows a doctor to talk to a patient directly."

ENSI-MED says that direct contact with your doctor through video conferencing means getting vital signs and an initial report on your condition. That cuts back on trips to the doctor and provides easy access to health care from the comfort of your home.

The video phone can support up to ten doctors at any one moment and the phones will be supplied to hospitals and clinics. As far as the cost, we were told Medicaid covers telemedicine.

When the company officially launches in July we'll find out just how much coverage patients will get. By the way, ENSI-MED says it will be hiring over 150 people in the Mining City over the next three years.

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