

Foggy Glass and Infrared Cameras: Is OnMed's CareStation the Future of Telemedicine?

OnMed's 'clinic-in-a-box' aims to be a quick fix for better healthcare access.



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Emergency department wait times are up and access is limited. Those are two of the biggest challenges in the healthcare industry right now.

That's where the "clinic-in-a-box" comes in.

Implemented in seven states and Puerto Rico, OnMed's CareStation, also known as the "clinic-in-a-box," is an 8x10 foot soundproof unit where a licensed clinician virtually conducts an appointment via telemedicine. The company expects the product to be in over 25 states by the end of 2026.

OnMed "takes the best of what was traditional, in-person care" plus the "rapid scalability of telemedicine" and "puts these together to create this CareStation," OnMed CEO Karthik Ganesh says.

Unpacking the Box

Ganesh explains the CareStation process like this: "You press the start button, the clinician shows up. She confirms you're ready for the visit. The door shuts. The glass fogs. You're now in a private, soundproof, secure environment where you have a one-on-one consult with a clinician on a 65-inch screen. So she feels like she's right in the room with you, and that's where you take your journey. It's got a blood pressure cuff. It's got infrared cameras. It's got thermal scanning. It's got the pulse oximetry, it's got a stethoscope, high-def camera, otoscope."

In the station, the clinician can virtually address a wide range of ailments, from infections, allergies and heartburn flare-ups to hypertension monitoring, asthma management and other chronic conditions. Most patients find their needs are resolved during the visit.

"If I say, 'Listen, I've got a cough and congestion showing up,' the clinician now deploys a stethoscope that drops down from the ceiling or from the side," Ganesh says. "I pull it over, and she tells me exactly how to hold it to my chest. She's now listening to my heart and my lungs in real time."

After each appointment the station self-sanitizes with ultraviolet light to kill 99.9% of germs. An employee wipes the station down at the end of each day.

A Quick Fix for Better Access

A CareStation can be up and running in five weeks. That kind of timeframe could be crucial to transforming rural healthcare access, Ganesh says.

"We expect to be an oversized partner for the states as the Rural Health Transformation funds come through, and the states start deploying these in rural America," he adds.

The clinic has also been set up in charter schools, children's centers, senior centers, homeless shelters and one prison.

Starting this summer, OnMed plans to expand its offerings to include mental health care in the CareStation.

"We're in the midst of a mental health tsunami of proportions that I don't think we've actually even begun to understand," Ganesh says.

Award-Winning Innovation

The product is a recipient of the Edison Awards, established in 1987 to honor “excellence in new product and service development, marketing, design and innovation.” U.S. News is a media partner for the Edison Awards.

“We built a company that is where every single person is looking to move mountains, and as you move mountains, you’re sweating profusely,” Ganesh says. “Then this nice little gush of wind that comes by and tells you, ‘Listen, you’re on the right path.’ ... It’s a very relieving and amazing feeling. And I think the Edison Award is going to feel that way for our employees as well.”