

Peek inside the bag of a San Antonio house-call doctor

By **Lainey Berkus** | May 10, 2018

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Photo: Elizabeth Glazier /San Antonio Express-News

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Inside her bag, Glazier carries a thumb drive for presentations, business cards and a wireless hub so that she can get online when visiting patients, allowing her to “show a patient their X-rays and labs, to ... [more](#)

Dr. Elizabeth Glazier is among the small but growing group of physicians who make house calls, what she calls “a window into the world of each patient.”

“I can quickly determine the family relationships, their support system, home safety issues and identify the root cause of their illness,” said Glazier, WellMed’s Chief of Palliative Care who developed its outpatient home visiting and clinic care program.

Few bags are as iconic as a doctor's black bag. Glazier's is an overstuffed one filled with traditional medical tools and modern high-tech equipment.

Hers is a traditional oversize black canvas messenger bag with many padded compartments and dividers for her medical tools. The bag is also practical and sturdy, able to be transported from trunk to home visits with ease.

Inside her bag, Glazier carries a thumb drive for presentations, business cards and a wireless hub so that she can get online when visiting patients, allowing her to "show a patient their X-rays and labs, to scan documents and to electronically prescribe medications to a local pharmacy, right from the comfort of their sofa," she said.

She also has pockets for prescription pads, pens, pencils, a pharmacy manual, Purell, Vaseline and Sharpies, a "critical piece of any geriatric practice to both leave behind instructions and to write on prescription

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bottles if a medication is stopped or a dosage is altered.”



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And because she's a doctor, she of course carries medical tools like a reflex hammer, a flashlight, a monofilament for checking nerves in lower extremities, a slit lamp for identifying corneal abrasions and calipers for reading EKG. She also carries a laptop, cords, a camera for conducting remote tele-medicine visits and medical directive forms such as Medical Power of Attorney and Out-of-Hospital Do Not Resuscitate forms.

Glazier also carries a second canvas tote, which she refers to as her “procedural bag.” This bag is filled with tools for drawing blood, collecting urine, dressing a skin ulcer, scalpels for wound debridements, a scale, wipes to clean equipment, blood drawing supplies, containers to throw away needles, injection supplies and containers to throw away needles.

Lainey Berkus is a San Antonio freelancer.



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