

# Why Use Telemedicine for Ophthalmology Services?

In rural communities and understaffed hospitals, ophthalmology services are hard to come by. Unsurprisingly, ophthalmology is one of the medical specialties with the lowest rate of projected workforce adequacy by 2035. The delivery of equitable eye services has become a unique challenge everywhere and is currently impacting rural communities at a disproportionate rate.

## The Challenge

Hospitals must be equipped to diagnose and treat a range of eye conditions, as well as illnesses that lead to irreversible eye damage, however, the financial capability and organizational bandwidth to find and hire a full-time ophthalmologist isn't always available. Even when local hospitals are able to have an ophthalmologist on staff, the facility likely must pay more to recruit and retain the physician. This financial strain is further compounded by the high risk of burnout without another specialist on staff for weekends, nights, holidays and vacations.

A hospitalist can order screenings from an optometrist, but they are only licensed to practice optometry, not medicine. An ophthalmologist is needed to provide a full-spectrum health assessment of the eye and care options. The inability to care for these patients leads to transfers and poor satisfaction rates for the facility at hand.

## The Solution

Eagle Telemedicine supports hospitals by connecting them with experienced Tele-Ophthalmologists when a patient needs an evaluation. Telemedicine allows many patients to receive treatment otherwise unavailable in their hometown — eliminating medical transfer costs and travel stress.

Ophthalmologists are well-versed in the causes and treatments of eye diseases and vision problems, providing support for on-staff physicians treating patients with complex cases. With today's technology, Eagle Tele-Ophthalmologists are able to provide patients with thorough diagnosis and care via virtual exams, diagnostics and provider-to-provider consultations, better preparing and equipping your teams for any patient that walks through your facility's door.

## Tele-Ophthalmology Benefits

- ✓ Access to Ophthalmologists
- ✓ Fast Response Time
- ✓ Reduce Staff Burnout
- ✓ Reduce Patient Transfers
- ✓ Increase Patient Access
- ✓ Increase Quality of Care
- ✓ Eliminate Physician Recruiting Costs
- ✓ Minimize Readmissions
- ✓ Improve Hospital Bottom Line

*Around 12 million Americans over the age of 40 have some form of vision impairment and 93 million adults are at high risk for serious vision loss, but only half visited an eye doctor in the past year. Eagle delivers critical access to Tele-Ophthalmologists to meet this growing need.*



To Learn More About Implementing Tele-Ophthalmology at Your Hospital, Contact Eagle Today

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