



TeleCardiology

Why Use Telemedicine in Cardiology?

In smaller hospitals, cardiac issues are often the number one reason for transfer. Many of these patients only need a consultation to determine whether they can be retained and treated close to home, and avoid the disruption of transfer to a tertiary hospital.

Community hospitals in need of a solution for patients who don't require invasive treatment consider TeleCardiology a valuable resource. These services support onsite hospitalists and the Emergency Department in the management of patients experiencing cardiac issues.

**EAGLE TELECARDIOLOGISTS
DETECT, MANAGE & TREAT**

- ✓ **Arrhythmia**
- ✓ **Atrial Fibrillation**
- ✓ **Cardiomyopathy**
- ✓ **Heart Failure**
- ✓ **And More...**

An Emergency Department physician or hospitalist can order an electrocardiogram (ECG) and other diagnostic studies, like cardiac CT scans and cardiac MRI scans, but without an experienced cardiologist available to review the data and provide guidance, the patient is often transferred to a tertiary hospital many miles away.

The Challenge

Hospitals must be equipped to diagnose and treat a range of heart conditions that present day and night. In a rural community, the prospect of hiring a full-time cardiologist for around the clock coverage is costly and difficult. A Health Affairs study reported a 23% higher death rate as well as a higher rate of preventable hospitalizations among Medicare beneficiaries with chronic conditions living in rural communities.

Much of this inconsistency can be attributed to the nationwide shortage of specialists, like cardiologists. Living in a rural community amplifies this shortage. The National Rural Health Association reports that 20% of the population lives in rural areas while only 11% of physicians practice in these communities.

Even if the local hospital has a cardiologist on staff, the facility is likely to pay more to recruit and retain the physician. In addition, the risk of burnout for specialists is high if there isn't backup for nights, weekends, holidays and vacations.



The Solution

Eagle Telemedicine helps patients and physicians in rural hospitals by connecting them with experienced TeleCardiologists at any time of the day or night, even weekends. This results in 24/7/365 cardiology coverage, so whenever a patient needs immediate attention a cardiologist is available within minutes. Telemedicine allows many patients to be hospitalized in their hometown — eliminating medical transfer costs and travel stress.

A TeleCardiologist can provide valuable consultative assistance in the absence of an on-site specialist. For hospitals that employ a full-time cardiologist, telemedicine supports call coverage and rounding when the specialist is off-duty or on leave.

With today's technology, Eagle physicians provide patients with thorough diagnosis and care via virtual exams, diagnostics and provider-to-provider consultations. Research shows that the majority of cardiac concerns can be resolved without an on-site cardiologist — reducing cardiac-related emergency visits.

The remote provider can view the patient's health information in real-time, including access to cardiac monitoring. This allows the TeleCardiologist to prescribe appropriate intervention for patients. The on-site emergency medicine physician, hospitalist and/or nursing staff administer the treatment.

With cardiovascular disease striking nearly half of Americans, Eagle Telemedicine offers a solution that increases access to expert cardiology care when and where it's needed.

TELECARDIOLOGY BENEFITS THE PATIENT & HOSPITAL



- ✓ Provide 24/7 access to expert cardiologists
- ✓ Collaborate coverage with local physicians
- ✓ Manage gaps in cardiology coverage
- ✓ Emergency response time of 15 minutes or less
- ✓ Maintain excellence in care and reduce transfers
- ✓ Satisfied patients, families, staff
- ✓ Improve compliance with Leapfrog IPS standards
- ✓ Increase patient volume
- ✓ Maximize ROI with incremental DRG reimbursement

