

EQUUM MEDICAL TELE-PSYCHIATRY

EXPANDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACCESS, CAPACITY, AND FLOW IN ACUTE CARE



EQUUM MEDICAL

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INNOVATIVE & COLLABORATIVE

Equum is committed to continuously improving patient safety through innovative solutions that couple people, process and technology, ensuring that hospitals can adapt to the evolving needs of patients and staff.

BACKGROUND & MARKET CHALLENGE



Hospitals nationwide face an acute challenge in managing psychiatric emergencies and inpatient behavioral health needs.

Mental illness is prevalent – approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. experiences a mental health condition each year – yet access to psychiatry specialists is severely limited. Over 60% of U.S. counties (including 80% of rural counties) have no psychiatrist on staff (newamericaneconomy.org), leaving many emergency departments (EDs) without adequate coverage. Patients in psychiatric crisis often endure long waits for specialty care – sometimes measured in days (pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov). This boarding crisis strains hospital capacity and contributes to poor patient experiences. In short, the demand for timely psychiatric intervention far exceeds on-site resources available at most hospitals.

OPPORTUNITY & SOLUTION — TELE-PSYCHIATRY:

Tele-Psychiatry presents a strategic opportunity for hospitals to close the specialist gap and improve care delivery. By leveraging secure high-definition telehealth technology, Equum Medical enables 24/7 virtual psychiatric consultations in emergency and acute care settings (community.hlth.com). This means a board-certified psychiatrist or specialty trained nurse practitioner can be “on the scene” via video within minutes to assess a patient. Faster psychiatric evaluation translates to faster treatment or appropriate disposition, which can drastically reduce length of stay in the ED. Moreover, telepsychiatry ensures that patients in all locations receive expert care. Telepsychiatry has been shown to improve access, throughput, and enhance care and outcomes. By deploying virtual behavioral health staff on demand, hospitals can turn a critical shortage into an opportunity to deliver timely, high-quality mental health care that would otherwise be unattainable.

TELE-PSYCHIATRY SERVICE CAPABILITIES

PURPOSE-BUILT FOR ACUTE CARE ENVIRONMENTS

Equum Medical's telepsychiatry service is purpose-built for acute care environments and seamlessly integrates with hospital workflows.

KEY FEATURES AND CAPABILITIES INCLUDE:

- **24/7/365 Coverage:** Equum provides round-the-clock access to a team of licensed psychiatrists and psychiatric advanced practitioners. This ensures that whether it's midnight or a weekend, your ED and inpatient units can get immediate psychiatric consults and admissions support.
- **Comprehensive Evaluations & Consultations:** Equum's providers conduct thorough psychiatric assessments, including risk evaluations (for suicide, violence, etc.), medication reviews, and diagnostic interviews, all through the virtual platform. They then collaborate with the local care team to form a treatment plan or disposition.
- **Support for Admissions and Transfers:** Our telepsychiatrists assist in determining the appropriate level of care for each patient. If the patient can be managed outpatient, our team provides recommendations for follow-up.
- **Integration with Hospital Systems:** Equum's teams work within the hospital platform – including electronic health records and PACS – ensuring our remote psychiatrists can review clinical data (labs, imaging) and document consult notes as if they were on site. Regulatory Compliance & Credentialing: Equum handles multi-state licensure and credentialing for our psychiatric providers, so they are authorized to deliver care in your location.

BENEFITS TO HOSPITALS

By partnering with Equum Medical for Tele-Psychiatry, hospitals and health systems can realize numerous operational, clinical, and financial benefits:

- **Reduced ED Boarding Times:** Patients in mental health crisis are evaluated and care is initiated more quickly thus facilitating disposition, freeing up ED beds and improving overall throughput. This helps emergency departments return to normal operation by alleviating backups caused by behavioral health cases.
- **Avoidance of Unnecessary Admissions:** Timely psychiatric consults mean fewer patients get admitted to medical units solely due to lack of psych evaluation. Instead, patients receive the right care plan (outpatient resources, direct psychiatric admission, etc.), which optimizes inpatient bed utilization and preserves capacity for medical/surgical patients ([pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)).
- **Expanded Service Line & Revenue Capture:** Offering telepsychiatry allows the hospital to treat and retain behavioral health patients who might otherwise be transferred out. This not only meets a community need but also captures revenue that would have left the system. It has the added benefit of improving the hospital's reputation for comprehensive care.
- **Cost Savings on Staffing:** Equum's service eliminates the need to hire additional full-time psychiatrists or pay high locum tenens fees to cover gaps. Given the significant psychiatrist shortage, recruitment is costly and often unsuccessful. Tele-psychiatry provides expert coverage at a fraction of the cost of in-house staffing, delivering financial relief and predictability.
- **Improved Patient Outcomes & Satisfaction:** Early psychiatric intervention can de-escalate crises and initiate treatment plans that lead to better health outcomes. Patients and families benefit from not having to wait endlessly or travel far for care – leading to higher satisfaction.
- **Regulatory Compliance & Risk Mitigation:** Telepsychiatry can help hospitals meet regulatory requirements for timely behavioral health assessments (for example, guidelines on evaluating suicidal patients in the ED). By having specialists available, the hospital mitigates the risk of patients "slipping through the cracks" or leaving without proper evaluation, thereby improving safety and compliance.

ENGAGE WITH EQUUM MEDICAL

BECAUSE, WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Explore how Equum can help elevate your virtual patient observation program:

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Engage with Equum today to strengthen patient safety, relieve staff burden, and unlock long-term savings through the power of smart, outsourced Tele-sitting.



BRIDGING THE HEALTHCARE GAP
THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION.

