

# Collaborative Shared Services Program for Critical Access and Community Hospitals

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Equum Medical, a leader in telehealth-enabled clinical services, proudly announces the launch of its Collaborative Shared Services Program for Critical Access Hospitals. This innovative program addresses the pressing need for enhanced access to healthcare services in rural communities and the creative opportunity for rural hospitals to band together to meet the challenges of delivering healthcare in rural communities. This rural network model is designed to keep patients local, increase access to clinical services, control costs and support the standardization of best practices.



## Responding to Rural Healthcare Needs

Equum Medical's roots are firmly planted in rural America. Founded by physicians dedicated to improving rural health, Equum Medical has grown over the past 13 years into one of the largest networks of telehealth service providers. Specializing in Tele-ED, Tele-ICU, Multi-Specialty, Nursing, Observation, and Telemetry services, Equum Medical has tailored its new program to optimize patient care and operational efficiency in rural hospitals.



## Innovative Solutions for Rural Hospitals

Equum Medical was founded to address the unique challenges faced by rural hospitals," said Dr. Corey Scurlock, MBA, CEO & Founder of Equum Medical. "Our Collaborative Shared Services Program offers a cost-effective way to bring high-quality, specialized care to rural communities at the scale required for a rural clinically integrated network (CIN), ensuring patients can receive the care they need without leaving their hometowns."

## A Peer-Driven Approach to Care

Recognizing the specific demands of rural communities, Equum Medical built the Collaborative Shared Services Program in response to primary marketing research enabled by Equum's partnership with the National Rural Health Association and requests from current rural clients. This peer-driven model helps reduce if not eliminate outmigration by keeping patients—and the associated patient services revenue—within local hospitals.

## Driving Care Forward

The Collaborative Shared Services Program allows multiple hospitals to share access to Equum Medical's extensive suite of services, maximizing resource utilization and enabling even the smallest hospitals to offer specialty care. This approach fosters alliances among rural hospitals, ensuring comprehensive care from emergency services to complex specialty treatments.

"Telehealth is revolutionizing how we deliver care in rural areas," said Brock Slabach, MPH, FACHE, Chief Operating Officer of the National Rural Health Association. "Equum Medical's new program is a significant step forward, offering critical access and rural community hospitals the tools and support they need to overcome resource constraints and keep care local while also bringing efficiency to the contracting process available through the Rural Hospital Network model."

## Achieving Excellence in Rural Healthcare

Equum Medical's innovative model demonstrates proven results across various services, ensuring high standards of care are met. The program's integration of advanced telehealth solutions and shared resources fosters an environment where rural hospitals can thrive, ultimately leading to improved patient outcomes and community health.

## Join Us in Revolutionizing Rural Healthcare

The Collaborative Shared Services Program is now available to critical access hospitals nationwide. To learn more about how Equum Medical can help your facility enhance care delivery and operational efficiency, visit Equum Medical or contact our team to schedule a consultation. Equum is the exclusive HIT partner to the National Rural Health Association and a Gold sponsoring annual partner of the NRHA.

## About Equum Medical

Equum Medical is a nationally recognized leader in telehealth-enabled clinical services, committed to delivering innovative healthcare solutions that empower providers and improve patient outcomes. Our services are designed to address the specific needs of rural and critical access hospitals, ensuring that quality care is accessible to all communities.



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## Equum Medical is Transforming Rural ICU with Tele-Critical Care

Equum Medical provided virtual critical care services to a remote rural hospital, becoming its virtual ICU department.

### Solutions

- Equum Medical's Tele-Critical Care service effectively became the hospital's critical care department during the COVID surge
- Equum physicians virtually rounded on patients twice daily and were available for any ICU needs in the meantime
- Equum enabled the hospital to retain critically ill patients, avoiding transfers to a hospital more than 100 miles away

### Benefits

- Enabled hospital to maintain modern medicine in a remote area where patient transfers are problematic
- Equum's team turned around a desperate situation for a patient.

# Telehealth Transforms Care at a Remote Critical Access Hospital

## Challenge

A remote hospital faced the challenge of an understaffed critical care department during a surge in patient demand. The hospital had previously relied on a specialist for critical care, despite the specialist not being trained for that specific role. Additionally, the hospital aimed to retain critically ill patients instead of transferring them to the nearest facility located a significant distance away. This challenge highlighted the need for a reliable and efficient solution that would address staffing shortages and improve patient care.

## Solution

Equum Medical, a leading telehealth provider, introduced its Tele-Critical Care service to address the hospital's staffing challenge. As demand stabilized, Equum Medical continued to care for high-acuity patients in the ICU, conducting virtual rounds twice daily and remaining available for any ICU needs in between. This approach allowed the hospital to maintain quality care and support its staff more effectively. The remote hospital is part of a national network of rural hospitals, offering various essential healthcare services to the local community.

## Outcomes

With the help of Equum Medical, the remote hospital has successfully maintained modern medical practices in an isolated location where patient transfers are challenging. Equum Medical has played a significant role, essentially serving as the hospital's virtual ICU and providing crucial support to the in-house medical team. A notable example of their impact involved a patient with multiple health issues who required critical care on two separate occasions. Each time, Equum Medical's team managed to stabilize the patient's condition, allowing for transfer to a long-term care facility for rehabilitation and eventually, discharge home. This demonstrates the effectiveness of Equum Medical's telehealth solutions in enhancing patient care and addressing staffing challenges in remote hospitals.

