

# TELE-PSYCHIATRY

## THE CLINICAL CHALLENGE

Hospitals nationwide face an acute crisis in managing behavioral health emergencies. Mental illness is highly prevalent (about 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience 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, leaving many emergency departments without any psychiatric coverage. As a result, patients in psychiatric crisis often endure extreme waits for evaluation – sometimes languishing in the ED for days until a specialist can see them.

## WHAT EQUUM DOES

Equum Medical's Tele-Psychiatry service provides 24/7 virtual psychiatric consultations, purpose-built for acute care settings. Via secure high-definition telehealth technology, Equum enables round-the-clock access to board-certified psychiatrists or psychiatric nurse practitioners who can be "on the scene" within minutes to assess a patient. Whether it's midnight or a weekend, when a mental health emergency presents in your ED or inpatient unit, an Equum provider is available on-demand to conduct a thorough evaluation. The tele-specialist connects by video to interview the patient, review clinical data (labs, imaging, etc.), consult with the onsite team, and make prompt treatment recommendations.

Equum's service seamlessly integrates with hospital workflows: the team documents directly in the hospital EHR and coordinates with on-site staff as if they were in-house. By deploying virtual behavioral health staff on demand, hospitals turn a critical shortage into an opportunity – delivering timely, high-quality mental health care that would otherwise be unattainable. In essence, Equum embeds a 24/7 behavioral health specialist team into your hospital virtually, closing the specialist gap and improving care delivery for psychiatric patients.

## THE VALUE CREATED

Equum's Tele-Psychiatry service creates significant clinical and operational value by resolving delays in psychiatric care. Patients in crisis receive timely evaluations, which can de-escalate emergencies and get treatment started at the earliest point of need.

## BENEFITS OF EQUUM SERVICE

### Reduced ED Boarding & Improved Throughput:

Equum's tele-psychiatry service dramatically shortens emergency department boarding times for behavioral health patients.

### Optimal Care & Capacity Utilization:

With on-demand psych specialists, hospitals avoid unnecessary admissions and inefficiencies.

### Expanded Behavioral Health Access:

Offering 24/7 tele-psychiatry expands your hospital's service line and ability to care for mental health cases.

### 24/7 Specialist Coverage Without Full-Time Hires:

Equum provides constant access to psychiatrists. Hospital administrators gain a reliable solution to the psychiatry workforce challenge – a virtual team that scales with demand.

### Improved Patient Outcomes & Satisfaction:

Patients and their families no longer have to "wait endlessly or travel far" for mental health care, resulting in higher satisfaction and trust in the hospital.

### Regulatory Compliance & Risk Mitigation:

Having tele-psych specialists available 24/7 helps hospitals meet regulatory requirements for timely behavioral health assessments; for example, guidelines for evaluating suicidal patients in the ED.