



# Meeting the Demand for Infectious Disease Expertise with Telemedicine

Emerging infectious diseases, antibiotic overuse with associated antibiotic resistance, growing global travel, and population growth, especially increasing numbers of elderly, are driving the need for infectious disease specialists. Even before the COVID-19 outbreak, demand for infectious disease specialists was high. Yet, the availability of infectious disease specialists, particularly in rural areas, is not keeping up with demand.

Tele-infectious disease specialty care is an Access TeleCare core service line. Hospitals of any size can connect with an Access TeleCare board-certified infectious disease specialist via secure, high-resolution technology in minutes to diagnose, treat and manage patients with difficult, unusual, or complicated bacterial, fungal, viral and parasitic infections, such as meningitis, sepsis, complicated urinary tract infection, pneumonia, cellulitis and abscess, and HIV. Our tele-infectious disease specialists work in inpatient and outpatient settings.



## Our tele-infectious disease specialists work with your clinical teams to:



Serve as a point-of-contact for other specialists to help with early triage, evaluation and ongoing management of hospitalized patients, including selecting appropriate antibiotics, route of administration and duration of therapy.



Participate in antibiotic stewardship programs and P&T committees, as requested.



Participate in multidisciplinary rounding.



Guide infection control protocols.



With Access TeleCare, our patients needing infectious disease care in our wound care center, hospital, and emergency department no longer have to travel to San Antonio or wait for care. We are able to provide this important service on site, when and where they need it most.



**Cory Edmondson**

President & CEO - Peterson Health

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- Reduce hospital pharmacy expenditures related to antibiotic prescriptions – the number one spend in hospital pharmacy.
- Achieve clinical excellence goals of reducing both antibiotic overuse and antibiotic resistance and financial goals of reducing costs.

## PARTNERSHIP GOALS

- Reduced health care-acquired infections.
- Reduced transfers of patients.
- Enhanced antibiotic stewardship programs.
- Improved quality of care.
- Reduced length of stay.
- Increased case mix index



## ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP

As of March 30, 2020, all U.S. hospitals, including critical access hospitals, must have an active and hospital-wide antibiotic stewardship program. The requirement comes as the share of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections in the U.S. more than doubled over 13 years.

AccessTeleCare's telemedicine antibiotic stewardship program can be implemented in all hospitals, even those without in-house or on-site infectious disease specialists.



## About AccessTeleCare

Access TeleCare is the nation's leading acute, multispecialty telemedicine group that combines clinical workflows, peer-referenced specialists, and a world-class telemedicine experience supported with a clinical sense of urgency. Access TeleCare builds and sustains custom telemedicine programs that work for hospitals, patients, physicians, and nurses. Our core service lines are: hospitalist, psychiatry, cardiology, cardiac arrest management, general neurology and acute stroke, pulmonary and critical care, infectious disease, and maternal-fetal medicine.