

TECHNOLOGY

Telemedicine Technologies for Optometry

Here is a selection of some of the companies providing telemedicine technologies (this list is not comprehensive):

20/20NOW provides optometrists with telemedicine capabilities to care for patients both in and out of the office. ODs can more safely see patients, add exam capacity, extend practice hours and locations, and increase their ODs' productivity by conducting remote comprehensive digital eye exams. An in-office technician does pretesting while the rest of the exam is performed by a remote technician and the optometrist followed by a video conference to discuss the exam results and prescription. The optometrist can conduct the exam remotely or use a 20/20NOW doctor to fill in when needed. The company has recently launched a HIPAA-compliant telemedicine program that lets ODs conduct eye care consultations with patients at home. There are no minimum exam requirements, and currently ODs can acquire any needed diagnostic and telemedicine equipment with no upfront cost.

Compulink's Eyecare Advantage offers a number of practice-management tools, such as its OneTab EHR software that lets ECPs document and exam from a single screen. Its telemedicine function supports synchronous video and audio chat with patients. MyEyeStore lets a practice sell products through online ordering. Its telemedicine software lets ECPs connect remotely with patients via real-time video and audio chat.

Digital Optometrics offers a synchronous digital platform that connects patients and ECPs using video-conferencing and remotely performed eye exams. The service requires patients to come to an optometric location, and the company emphasizes the convenience to patients, who can walk in and have

their exam. The exam includes having an ophthalmic technician handling autorefractometry, take photos of the eyes and determines a patient's current prescription, while conversing with the patient via live remote video. The information is then sent to an optometrist who will discuss the results via remote video.

Doxy.me is a telemedicine system that requires no downloads for patients, who can create a synchronous connection with their ECP via a specific URL. There is a free version available; the paid accounts offer extras such as text and email notifications and the ability to receive payments. The communications are encrypted, and the service is HIPAA compliant.

EyecareLive offers a digital platform that allows ECPs and patients to access each other online, any time. Patients can download the app and reach out to their ECP from home, send images of their eyes, and arrange a live video chat, making it both synchronous and asynchronous. A patient with dry eye can take an in-app SPEED test, and the results can be reviewed online by the ECP. Plus, a myopic child can use the EyecareLive app to take an at-home screening test and let an ECP review the status of their myopia.

EyecarePro has a telemedicine platform called GetSetCare that practices can use for synchronous emergency consults, dry eye check-ins, vision therapy sessions, and ongoing appointments for patients with chronic ocular diseases or conditions. GetSetCare allows practices to set their telemedicine schedules, and patients can book through the practices' own websites. GetSetCare is HIPAA compliant.

Eyefinity EHR has fully integrated telehealth capabilities. Providers can leverage their cloud-based optometric software to provide remote care for

consultations, supervision, and medication management. Auto-coding helps ensure accurate billing and claims management. Soon, users will have the ability to expand practice reach and deliver personalized care with secure, HIPAA-compliant video chat functionality. Doctors who wish to perform a video visit are able to connect with their patient and document an exam simultaneously on the iPad app. With Eyefinity EHR, users can extend care with confidence using professional-grade, high-resolution video technology. This complete, all-in-one telehealth solution is patient friendly, making it easy to offer virtual patient visits while practicing within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations and state guidelines, during the pandemic and beyond.

Icare Home sells a range of tonometers for tracking intraocular pressure. Its handheld ic200 device, for example, is designed for professional use in a clinic and requires no eyedrops or air. Its Icare HOME device is designed for patients to use according to their doctor's prescription. The results are then available online asynchronously for access by an ECP.

NovaSight offers two systems. One is the portable Eyeswift vision assessment system, which provides 11 different asynchronous vision exams and does not require an ECP to be present. The system was found to provide precise detection and measurements of ocular misalignment in children aged 3 to 15. Its second device is the CureSight eye-tracking based system for lazy eye treatment. The treatment is carried out using real-time 3D image processing algorithms and monitors the progress of the treatment automatically, providing feedback to caregivers through a telemedicine cloud-based application, and it automatically adjusts the treatment protocol.

Optos offers its Optomap technology with its ultra-widefield (UFW) that captures more of the retina than traditional equipment, covering more than 80

percent or 200° of the retina in a single image. Its devices are meant for use in a professional setting but capture images that can be shared in a digital format to an ECP. Some of its devices are designed to help diagnose specific conditions, such as diabetic eye disease, uveitic conditions and other choroidal pathology.

SolutionReach offers SR Telehealth, which is a secure, high-resolution video tool for telemedicine that is launched directly from a text conversation. Visits using SR Telehealth can be pre-scheduled, and instructions can be sent in the text or email appointment reminder. Then, a link can be sent a few minutes before the visit through text to launch the secure visit. Solutionreach lets ECPs deliver instructions and links to a third-party telehealth solution or through SR Telehealth.

Topcon Healthcare is focused on smart design and developing technologies and products that integrate for a more proactive approach to patient diagnosis and treatment. Keeping pace with the ever-changing landscape of the eye care industry, especially the now urgent need for telehealth, Topcon's smart devices help optimize quality, speed, and reach of care. With Topcon's automated OCTs and new remotely controlled diagnostic instruments, doctors can engage with patients, diagnose conditions, and recommend treatment through our connected ecosystems. The potential for remote diagnostics is urgent and tremendous, and Topcon's technology is well positioned to meet these growing needs as the eye care landscape evolves.

Uprise Telehealth Essentials, is Uprise by VisionWeb's newest software offering to assist ODs in their management of remote patient visits with customizable video and audio appointments, image and video storage and access, a HIPAA-compliant patient portal, automated telemedicine billing, and electronic patient education content.