



Friends Helping Friends



STeM Alliance Program

Why Rural Communities Need Specialty Collaboration

46 million Americans live in rural communities where specialty care is often hours away. For many, Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) are the only option. When complex cases arise, these hospitals face a difficult reality: transfer patients or be bypassed.

Every transfer or bypass sends revenue, patients, and downstream care to distant systems. It strains patients with travel and cost while limiting local hospitals' ability to grow. Meanwhile, rural patients face higher mortality rates for conditions where timely specialty care improves outcomes.

 **The solution:** equip local providers with the specialist support needed to keep care, revenue, and patients close to home.

How the STeM Alliance Program Works

The STeM Alliance Program is a cost-sharing model that connects CAHs with board-certified specialists through a shared services telemedicine partnership. We become part of your local care team, not a distant referral destination.

Three Service Modalities

Video Consultation

Real-time specialist encounters at the CAH, outpatient clinic, or patient's home.

Provider Consultation

Direct specialist access for CAH clinicians — no referral paperwork, no wait.

Chronic Care Management

Availability of chronic care management between visits; early intervention before escalation.

Reimbursement Designed for CAHs

Under Method II billing, CAH outpatient telehealth encounters generate both a professional fee and the cost-based facility fee, creating meaningful program revenue. Specialist TeleMed works directly with CAH billing staff to ensure every encounter is captured correctly.

What Alliance Membership Includes



No Capital Investment Required

STeM manages physician availability, credentialing, and clinical onboarding



Regular Performance Reporting

Patient retention, transfer and/or ED avoidance, encounter volume, billing capture, and satisfaction metrics



Dedicated Alliance Oversight

Aligns the program to local workflows and monitors outcomes over time



Personalize Your Alliance

Hospital + Hospital, Hospital + SNF, Hospital + SNF + HHA | You chose what's right for your community

**Harnessing the Power of Unity
to Enhance Patient Care**

If your hospital is transferring patients for conditions that could be managed locally with the right specialist support, the Alliance was built for you.