The OHSU Telemedicine Network improves stroke care throughout Oregon

Stroke is the leading cause of adult disability and the third leading cause of death in the U.S. The OHSU Telemedicine Network’s telestroke program helps reduce these trends by delivering the most advanced care — from OHSU’s Comprehensive Stroke Center — directly to patients around the state.

CASE STATEMENT:
The OHSU Telemedicine Network expands access to stroke care in collaborating hospitals via a secure two-way audio-video connection. Telemedicine gives community providers immediate access to OHSU specialists who help them make treatment decisions when time is critical, averts costly and unnecessary transports and allows patients to receive stroke care in their hometown hospital — even in rural or underserved areas.

BENEFITS TO YOUR EMPLOYEES:
• Increases access to life-saving, brain-saving treatment. Only 3 percent of stroke patients nationwide receive t-PA, a clot-busting medication that can limit brain damage from strokes and improve patient recovery. About 30 percent of patients treated by the OHSU telestroke program received t-PA.
• Keeps patients local. Nearly half of patients examined by OHSU stroke specialists stayed in their home communities, reducing the time, stress and expense of travel for patients and families.
• Provides immediate access to advanced diagnosis and treatment. The telestroke program has given more than 350 patients access to stroke specialists since 2010 — most in rural hospitals without a stroke neurologist on staff. OHSU’s telestroke team is available 24/7/365 and can be at the bedside in minutes.

IMPACT ON HEALTH CARE COSTS:
The OHSU Telemedicine Network has saved patients more than $3 million in transport costs alone.

BOTTOM LINE:
OHSU’s telestroke program brings the most advanced, life-saving stroke care to patients across Oregon, including rural and underserved areas.

When it comes to serious medicine, OHSU is irreplaceable in your benefits plan.

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