

## **TELEHEALTH PROJECT SUMMARY TEMPLATE**

Please provide information on all major projects in the last ten years (1998-2008) and any planned future projects

SUMMARY WRITER: **Jaclyn Griffin, NP**

PROJECT NAME: **National Diabetic Teleretinal Screening Program**

ORGANIZATION/AGENCY (and primary contact): **Department of Veteran's Affairs**

FUNDING (source and amount): **VISN**

START UP FUNDS:

REIMBURSEMENT (submitted/not submitted): **N/A**

DURATION (start time and date): **2007; implementation at Hilo, Maui, Kauai CBOCs in 2/08.**

PURPOSE/INTENT (100 words maximum):

**Teleretinal Imaging Overview:**

**Visual impairment is a common complication of diabetes. VHA is able to outperform the commercial managed care sector in screening for this. Maintaining and exceeding current rates of screening for diabetic retinopathy is the VHA's rationale for exploring the use of teleretinal imaging.**

**In FY 2000, Congress recognized this important issue and required the VA to collaborate with the Joslin Vision Network (JVN) and implement teleretinal imaging to assess diabetic retinopathy. Since January 2006, VHA has implemented comprehensive teleretinal imaging programs in 158 sites nationwide.**

**(Information obtained from the VA Care Coordination Services web page).**

MAJOR CRITICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

**Installation of Topcon camera and VistA Imaging portal to include alpha versions at the Hilo, Maui, and Kauai CBOCs. Four images trained by Boston Training Center in 2/08.**

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS: **Initiation of the program in 2/08.**

CRITICAL BARRIERS (overcome or not):

**Staff attrition at the Hilo CBOC: pending hire of an RN; lack of designated clinic time at Maui and Kauai CBOCs: recently designated Monday am as Teleretinal Imaging Clinic at Maui and Kauai CBOC.**

MAJOR LESSON LEARNED:

**Imperative to have staff dedicated to Telehealth to allow for full implementation and expansion of the service.**

CURRENT STATUS (active, planned, dormant, completed, other?):

**Active: Maui and Kauai CBOC; Dormant: Hilo CBOC; Planned: American Samoa CBOC.**

PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS: **Joslin Vision Network; Boston VA Training Center**

IS THERE A CLINICAL CHAMPION OR A COMMITTEE OVERSEEING THE TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM? **Dr. Casey Rogers, Dr. Alan Riezman**

TECHNOLOGY USED: **Topcon non mydriatic retinal camera: VistA Imaging**