



AUCH Teleophthalmology Program

Why:

Diabetes is the leading preventable cause of blindness (retinopathy) in adults aged 20-74. Many of the patients served by Utah's community health centers go without the recommended annual dilated eye exam. AUCH's Teleophthalmology Program provides a low-cost option by providing remote retinal screening exams to patients who otherwise would go without.

Where:

Retinal screening events are held at community health centers (CHC) and other AUCH member sites. Some health centers schedule retinal screenings as a medical visit and others offer screenings in conjunction with health fairs.

What:

During a retinal screening, patient information (visual acuity, diabetes history, last HbA1C, medications, etc.) is collected and a photographer takes 2-3 images of the patient's retinas. The patient's information and images are sent to a specialist for interpretation, to diagnose and recommend follow-up care. The images, patient information and diagnosis are returned to the originating CHC to include in the patient's chart and to facilitate referrals as needed. The program costs \$10 per patient.

How to get started:

- Contact the AUCH Telehealth Coordinator, 801-716-4603 or telehealth@auch.org to schedule a Retinal Screening Event.
- Schedule diabetic patients for the day of event. (Screenings take about 5-7 minutes and it is realistic to schedule 12 patients/hour.)

On the day of the event, please provide:

- A dark room. This program relies on the ability for a patient to naturally dilate in a darkened environment.
- An adjustable chair or table to accommodate different patients.
- Assistance. It would be ideal to have a health center staff member assist the photographer to collect basic patient information and document on the retinal screening form.