

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: **Lawrence Eron MD**

PROJECT NAME: **Virtual Hospital**

ORGANIZATION/AGENCY (and primary contact): **Lawrence Eron MD**

FUNDING (source and amount): **Kaiser Permanente \$80,000**

START UP FUNDS: **\$80,000**

REIMBURSEMENT (submitted/not submitted): **\$80,000/\$80,000**

DURATION (start time and date): **2002-2004**

PURPOSE/INTENT (100 words maximum): **Patients with acute infections, who otherwise would have been hospitalized, were treated at home using telemedicine.**

MAJOR CRITICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Outcomes were measured in a case control trial, which demonstrated that hospitalization compared to treatment at home using telemedicine were equivalent as far as clinical improvement and safety, but that patients convalesced at a faster rate at home.**

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS: **See above**

CRITICAL BARRIERS (overcome or not): **We attempted to switch from POTS to broadband cable transmission to obtain better quality images. However, our IT consultant was withdrawn due to Kaiser Permanente's need for his expertise in establishing an electronic medical record system region-wide. Furthermore, Kaiser Permanente withdrew overall funding for the project due to a severe budget shortfall for the entire organization.**

MAJOR LESSON LEARNED: **POTS lacks sufficient bandwidth to allow transmission of quality video images as well as auscultatory sounds.**

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

PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS: **Kaiser Permanente**

IS THERE A CLINICAL CHAMPION OR A COMMITTEE OVERSEEING THE TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM? **I'm as close to it as there is at Kaiser.**

TECHNOLOGY USED: **Equipment was from American Telecare Inc in Minneapolis. We used POTS connections.**