

# AURORA

Alaska Unified Rural Outreach for Regional Access | A rural specialty access and teledermatology network

Across rural and remote Alaska, the nearest dermatologist can be hundreds of miles and several flights away. Chronic, immune-mediated skin diseases go undiagnosed and undertreated for years. AURORA closes that distance by training local sites and connecting them to dermatology hubs, so patients reach specialty care without leaving their community whenever clinically appropriate.

## THE MODEL

A hub-and-spoke teledermatology network. Specialty expertise sits at the hubs. Local recognition and continuity sit at the spokes. A shared workflow connects them.

- **Hubs.** Operated by Advanced Dermatology of Alaska in Anchorage, Wasilla, and Juneau, with Fairbanks in development. Hubs provide evaluation, diagnosis, treatment planning, and payer-neutral access coordination.
- **Spokes.** Rural and community clinics, tribal health organizations, federally qualified health centers, and critical access hospitals. Spokes identify, document, and image, then connect to a hub and support local follow-up.

## HOW A REFERRAL FLOWS

- The local team identifies and documents the case using simple AURORA templates and photo guides.
- A dermatology hub reviews the case and builds a diagnosis and treatment plan.
- The plan returns to the local clinic, which implements it with hub support.
- Care continues close to home, with the hub available for ongoing questions.

## WHERE WE ARE HEADED

**5 to 8**

Founding spoke sites

**75 to 125**

Clinicians and care-team members trained

**150 to 250**

Teledermatology consults

**Under 21 days**

Median referral-to-specialist review

*These are growth goals, not current results. The network is actively building and recruiting founding spoke sites.*

**A firewalled, non-promotional model.** AURORA Core is clinical infrastructure. Any educational funding is governed separately and supports only non-promotional, product-neutral disease-state education. Sponsors never fund clinical operations, never influence clinical decisions, and never receive patient-level data. No product names and no sponsor logos appear on the clinical side of AURORA. Data governance follows strong privacy practices, including respect for tribal data sovereignty.

## WHAT AURORA SUPPORTS

- **Access.** Specialty dermatology for communities that have gone without it.
- **Workforce.** Training rural clinicians in recognition, documentation, and follow-up.
- **Technology.** A teledermatology pathway built for the realities of rural connectivity.
- **Chronic disease.** Structured, longitudinal care for systemic immune-mediated disease.
- **Sustainability.** Designed to operate on reimbursement, not on therapy revenue or sponsor influence.

## CONDITIONS SUPPORTED

The most developed pathways are the chronic inflammatory and immune-mediated diseases: psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, atopic dermatitis, hidradenitis suppurativa, vitiligo, alopecia areata, prurigo nodularis, and chronic urticaria. The network also supports general medical dermatology, urgent reaction recognition, and suspicious-lesion triage.