



The Arizona Telemedicine Ophthalmic Program or “ATOP” is an Ocular Risk Assessment Model that utilizes an innovative state of the art medical technology and advanced telecommunications process. This hi-tech process, allows AFEH to electronically capture and transmit a patient’s eye images from the screening site to the ATOP Image Reading Laboratory (located at AFEH headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona). Upon receipt at the laboratory, the images and patient data are securely stored and await the ophthalmologist diagnostic evaluation. Once the evaluation is completed, the diagnostic commentary and original eye images are transmitted back to the primary care provider at the initial ATOP screening site for patient follow-up.

**ARIZONA  
TELEMEDICINE  
OPHTHALMIC  
PROGRAM  
“ATOP”**

ATOP Ocular Evaluations are conducted by an “on call” ophthalmologist; AFEH has a team of six volunteer ophthalmologists, who work on a rotating schedule. All are specialists in their field(s) and are highly qualified. All patient data is securely archived for demographic and program evaluation reporting purposes.

ATOP Milestones:

- 2000 – Two year grant obtained; program software designed/tested, protocols established, training manuals created, and equipment tested and purchased.
- 2001 – Six member Ophthalmologist volunteer team established; operational & training policy and procedure manuals completed; established ATOP site #1; designed/installed ATOP Image Reading Laboratory at AFEH headquarters.
- 2002 – Site #1 launched at Mountain Park Community Health Center.
- 2003 - Three-year HRSA Grant/University of Arizona, Arizona Telemedicine Program resulted in site #2 at Mariposa Community Health Center in Nogales, Arizona (2003 – 2006).
- 2007 – Site #3 opened at Mountain Park Community Health Center/Maryvale Site #4 at AFEH main office established for training/screening purposes.

ATOP Results – From 2002 through December 31,2007:

- ATOP sites have screened approximately 4,000 patients.
- ATOP data indicates that 28% of the above patients were advised of the presence of an eye abnormality and to follow-up with their primary healthcare provide for further treatment.
- 2007 Mountain Park Health Center (Maryvale) ATOP site data totals for 511 patients: 235 = mild Diabetic Retinopathy; 206 = no evidence of eye abnormality; 23 = Diabetic Macular Edema; 20 = Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy; 14 = unable to visualize posterior pole; 8 = Refraction needed; 5 = Cataracts.
- ATOP distributed over 10,000 National Eye Institute (NEI), educational materials to patients and communities throughout Arizona.
- AFEH conducted four CME courses on diabetic eye disease

**NEW**

**AZSIGHTSAVER  
MOBILE EYE  
CENTER**



AFEH is currently developing a program that will take ATOP “on the road” via a “state of the art” mobile eye center, appropriately named “AZSIGHTSAVER”.

This initiative increases early detection opportunities for Arizona’s underserved and/or underinsured population. Subsequently, reducing the occurrences of vision loss and/or blindness through prevention education, community outreach, and intervention.