

# Telehealth Newsletter

## October 2007 Issue

### Good Samaritan Hospital Receives \$116,952 Grant for Telehealth

Dale Gibbs, Director

The USDA Rural Utilities Services Grant Program has announced that Good Samaritan Hospital will receive \$116,952 to assist with purchase of additional equipment for the Mid-Nebraska Telehealth Network. The equipment will be located at Good Samaritan and will facilitate the hospital's and network's ability to provide health-related services to central Nebraska and northern Kansas.

The money will be used to purchase additional mobile telehealth equipment for use with interpretive services, provide equipment for an additional much needed room for physicians and other practitioners to provide healthcare to patients at other hospitals, equipment to be placed in Good Samaritan Hospital's Pharmacy department for use with telepharmacy, upgrade equipment in the Family Advocacy Network area, and upgrade the telehealth bridge equipment which will allow facilities to access the telehealth network through the Internet. This last upgrade will be especially beneficial by increasing the opportunities for access.

This grant is the third USDA grant for telehealth, in as many years, which demonstrates the value of the Central Nebraska Telehealth Network to rural healthcare in the area.

### Upcoming Events

#### Nursing Noon Conference – 12-1 pm CST

October 18 – *Opportunities & Challenges: Providing Services & Safety to Victims of Domestic Violence*

#### Physician Noon Conference – 12:30-1:30 pm CST

October 19 - TBA

October 26 – *Substance Abuse Disorders*

#### State Network Test - 1:30-2:30 pm CST

October 12

#### EMS Trends – 7-9 pm CST

October 16 – *Childbirth and Obstetric Emergencies*

#### I Can Cope Program – 1:30-3:30 pm CST

October 19

October 22

October 26

NOTE:

More information on the above events can be found at:

<http://cnebcnh.hypermart.net/education.htm>.

The telemedicine newsletter is also posted online at:

<http://cnebcnh.hypermart.net/telemedicine.htm>.

The logo features a stylized graphic of concentric circles resembling a signal or a network, positioned above the word "Telemedicine" in a large, white, cursive font. Below "Telemedicine" is the word "NETWORK" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.



# Good Samaritan Telehealth Services

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## I Can Cope Program

Andee Hagan-Stuehm, RN ~ Oncology Services

This fall, patients diagnosed with cancer, their family and friends will have a unique opportunity to participate in an exciting project called “**I Can Cope**” right here in Nebraska. This educational program is designed to assist patients in learning how to live with cancer by providing information about cancer, treatment and nutrition. Another of its goals is to provide professional guidance and information to patients and families about how to cope with their feelings.

This American Cancer Society program is being offered as part of a National Cancer Institute Community Cancer Center Program (NCCCP) project at participating Catholic Health Initiatives sites in Nebraska. These sites include St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln, St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island and Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Each site will also make this program available to critical access hospitals via telehealth across the state.

The classes are scheduled from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on October 15, 19, 22 and 26. Each course includes lectures, audio-visual programs and group discussion. The faculty presenters are healthcare and community based professionals from the Lincoln, Grand Island and Kearney communities.

If you have any questions about this course or are interested in participating as one of the telehealth sites, please contact me, Andee Hagan-Stuehm at (308) 865-7985 or toll free at 1-800-277-4306.

## EMS Trends & Central Nebraska Telehealth Network Celebrate 10 Years Together

Tim Hoffman, EMS Manager

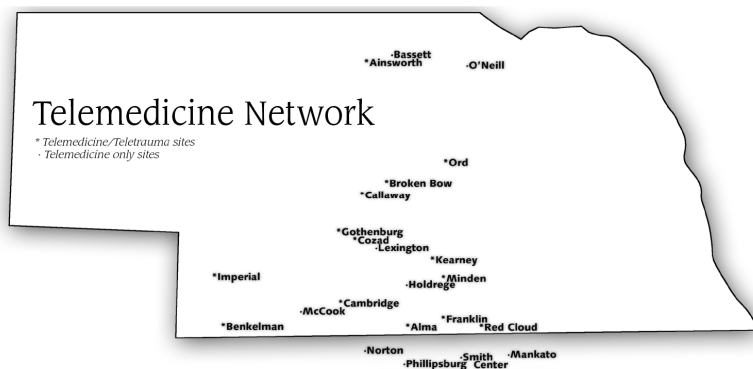
EMS Trends provides continuing education hours for volunteer and paid EMS personnel throughout Nebraska. Originally started in 1992, the monthly two-hour program took place in various rooms at Good Samaritan Hospital and EMS providers in the immediate area drove to Kearney to attend. Typically, there were 10 to 15 people attending per session.

The monthly sessions grew, became more successful and turned out to be a very popular way for EMS

personnel to gain continuing education hours. In 1997, because of the success of both EMS Trends and the telemedicine program at Good Samaritan, we decided to begin broadcasting to the five hospitals that at that time made up the Central Nebraska Telehealth Network. Those hospitals were in Cambridge, Cozad, Callaway, Broken Bow and the now closed Sargent District Hospital.

This was the first attempt in the nation to provide continuing education hours to EMS providers by telehealth and was very successful. As the Central Nebraska Telehealth Network grew from the original five, the number of EMS personnel participating grew with each new addition. Typically, we now have anywhere from 30 to 50 participants at 29 sites thought Nebraska. We cover subjects like penetrating trauma, OB emergencies, reviewing vital signs, abdominal injuries, head injuries and many other DOT required material for EMS continuing education.

Today, the Central Nebraska Telehealth Network/EMS Trends model is replicated throughout the United States. With the newly created Nebraska State Telehealth Network, EMS Trends today is available to all hospitals and public health departments in Nebraska.



### GSH Telehealth Team:

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