

## Local Medical Facilities Collaborate To Ensure Rural Healthcare Sustainability

Personal electronic devices have revolutionized the way we do business. Healthcare is not exempt. As hospitals continue to focus on the entire healthcare experience, customers will expect technology to be fully integrated and accessible when it is needed.

That's why local medical groups including Tri Valley Health System (Cambridge, Arapahoe, Indianola), Phelps Memorial Health Center (Holdrege), Harlan County Health System (Alma), Phelps Medical Group (Holdrege) and Family Medical Specialties (Holdrege), have been in collaboration to enhance the delivery of care in their south central Nebraska communities.

Together, they are streamlining processes and sharing best practices in an effort to create a sustainable future for rural healthcare through the implementation of an electronic medical record system called MEDITECH, which launched May 1 at Tri Valley Health System.

There are many benefits to a shared electronic medical record system:

- \* improved patient and staff experience as a result of easier access to health information;
- \* improved safety and quality of care by reducing medical errors due to inefficient processes;
- \* shared financial costs for implementation and system maintenance;
- \* improved transparency and communication throughout the continuum of care;

"MEDITECH provides a comprehensive and integrated electronic medical record design to assist Tri Valley Health System in our vision of increasing patient safety, streamlining the processes of care delivery and improving communication between care teams and across collaborative departments," said Ciprian Galarneau, Director of Information Technology at Tri Valley Health System.

"The collaboration with Phelps Memorial and Tri Valley Health System allows our facilities to adopt an Electronic Health Record system. Our staffs now has access to a system that would have otherwise been unaffordable for our small rural hospitals," concludes Mark Miller, interim Chief Executive Officer at Harlan County Health System. "The integration of clinic and hospital records allows for continuity of care, enhances timeliness of service and improves patient safety. Any opportunity we have to improve patient safety and quality of care, it is a success for our patients and staff."

MEDITECH will assist clinicians who need to react quickly to issues and patients' changing conditions by automatically presenting information to the appropriate personnel and displaying the information in a meaningful format. Its ability to provide accurate, up-to-the-minute information at the point of care results in better informed and more effective treatment as well as better decision-making.

Contact Tri Valley Health System for more information about MEDITECH and how it will benefit you.

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*Tri Valley Health System's vision is to be a model of continued excellence as a regional integrated health care system committing ourselves to provide quality, progressive care. To learn more about TVHS, visit [www.trivalleyhealth.com](http://www.trivalleyhealth.com).*