

# **Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota Rural Health Grant Awards**

*Year 6 Projects  
2007-2009*

## **Beulah – Coal Country Community Health Center**

This project is used to support the initial cost of the digital radiology imaging system. The project will improve quality of imaging, timeliness of reading of imaging, and quality of the initial reads, thus improving the quality of patient care. It is the intent to enhance quality, reduce errors, allow for increased exchange of health information, reduce duplicative and unnecessary testing and services, and complete one step in building an electronic health record system.

## **Elgin – Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center Inc.**

This project will purchase a computed radiography (CR) system. Computed radiography will provide the opportunity to work with radiologists from the tertiary hospital in a more efficient manner. When there is an emergency at times they have sent people to a larger facility due to not knowing what is on the x-ray just in case it is a situation they cannot handle. Implementing digital radiology in the facility will allow them to keep the patient locally and get an accurate and timely reading.

## **Hazen – Sakakawea Medical Center**

This project is a collaborative effort between Sakakawea Medical Center, 4 clinics, a Community Health Center, and two tertiaries to create an electronic medical records system that will be used to share information with other health care facilities, providers, and the patients they serve in their rural area. The rural hospital will build on the electronic medical records (EMR) system that they have already implemented by purchasing a Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) with the intent of improved patient safety, higher patient satisfaction, reduction in duplication, and be a single source of patient information. With the PACS the hospital will transmit and receive radiology results in minutes.

## **Hillsboro – Hillsboro Medical Center (HMC)/Hillsboro Medical Center Foundation**

This project will develop an Integrated Health Information Technology System (wired and wireless network infrastructure) which will include the local hospital, nursing home, ancillary services and the future assisted living facility. The intent of this project is to have a fully integrated IT system that will result in providing clinicians with accurate and timely patient data, thus improving the care they provide to our patients and residents. A further result will be effectively meeting future federal mandates for Electronic Patient Records.

## **Kenmare – Kenmare Community Hospital**

This project will purchase a digital radiology system for the hospital to access and network the Picture Archiving and Communication System (PAC) system with the Rural Outreach PACS Initiative. Currently, medical radiology images are driven over 50 miles to the tertiary on a daily basis to be read and interpreted. The turn-around time of the final interpretation is averaged between two and four days. The intent is to improve the overall care of patients, increasing operational efficiencies, and lowering the financial burden of delivering quality care.

## *Year 6 Projects (cont.)*

### **Linton – Linton Hospital**

This project will purchase and implement a computed (digital) radiography(CR) system for the hospital and associated clinics. Expected outcomes of this project are; enhanced networking with radiologist services, referral physicians and tertiary hospitals; reduction in the number of repeat x-rays; faster turnaround time for radiologist reading of x-ray and CT; reduction of operating cost associated with purchase, handling and storage of film. Decreased turnaround time for radiologist reading of x-ray and CT will provide more accurate and timely diagnostic and treatment of patients and is expected to reduce unnecessary transfer of patients to a large tertiary for care and service.

### **Northwood – Northwood Deaconess Health Center**

assist Northwood is the lead applicant for a group of seven hospitals which, through this project, will build a centralized data center to be shared between the hospitals. By sharing a server they can better address and support technology issues in a more cost effective manner, for all members. The federal requirement of an electronic health record is not far away. This server will provide the backbone for the network of hospitals and in time, has the potential to support implementation of telemedicine, telepharmacy, and a PACS systems etc.

### **Turtle Lake – Community Memorial Hospital**

This project will assist the hospital, two clinics and one tertiary in purchasing and implementing hardware and software for Computed Radiography (CR). Currently it takes a day or longer to get the x-rays back from the tertiary that they are sent to. The CR will result in less patients having to be sent away to a tertiary or choosing to go to the tertiary immediately if an x-ray is needed. The images will be stored within the tertiary's PACS. The images will also be able to be sent to 2 area clinics for viewing, and eventually to any facility for viewing.

### **Wishek – Wishek Community Hospital & Clinics**

This project will purchase a computed radiography (CR) system which will provide the community and service area with immediate electronic submission of digital x-rays, CAT scans, and ultrasound images to be read and diagnosed by a radiologist in the tertiary. The project will allow greater quality of care as well as efficiency and cost savings by increased health information sharing between facilities. Unnecessary duplication of testing will become nonexistent and patient care will be able to be tracked from the rural to urban setting when needed and without delay.

*Year 5 Projects  
2006-2008*

**Bowman- Southwest Healthcare Services**

This project will implement an Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system to improve the communication between professional healthcare staff and increase patient information for visiting specialists that travel to the facility. The facility goal is to significantly enhance quality of care by eliminating communication errors between physicians and staff and increasing the availability of information to the patient's caregivers.

**Garrison- Garrison Memorial Hospital**

This project is to purchase a computed radiography or CR system, which will allow images to be transmitted digitally to the radiologist's in Bismarck. Patients will have final radiologist reading within hours, rather than weeks. This will not only minimize the patient's waiting time, but the physicians will have the ability to diagnose and treat the patient closer to home, thereby ensuring patients have access to quality care and offer continuity of care.

**Hettinger- West River Health Services**

The project will focus on access to, and timely transmission of client health information of home bound individuals through the use of telehealth technology. This organization will purchase home telehealth units and notebook computers to monitor home care clients. The goal is to enhance and expand current telehealth usage to provide cost-effective comprehensive home care services in a frontier region

**Langdon- Cavalier County Memorial Hospital**

This project is to purchase a Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) which will allow this facility to communicate all radiology results to St. Paul Radiology, in St. Paul, Minnesota, and other provider systems. The facility will have radiologist interpretation within hours at most and minutes at best. Patients will have the ability to take a CD ROM or DVD with their own images to a facility of their choosing for additional care or a second opinion.

**Park River - First Care Health Center**

This project will focus on the purchase and implementation of a computed radiography system or CR, which will allow images to be transmitted digitally offsite via a T-1 line and can be read 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The individual patient images will remain in the rural facility for access by their local physician. The CR will provide immediate access to information improving the quality of patient care.

**Rolla - Presentation Medical Center**

This project will include Presentation Medical Center, Rolla and St. Andrew's Health Center in Bottineau who will continue building an electronic medical record (EMR) by implementing order communications, specifically Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) in each facility. The implementation of CPOE is intended to improve quality of care and provide cost effective health care.

*Year 4 Projects  
2005-2007*

**Dickinson- St. Joseph's Hospital and Health Center**

This project will initiate an information and communications technology (ICT) web-based patient maintenance project which targets patients diagnosed with diabetes as a prototype -- with the idea that this web-based approach will be extended to other chronic conditions.

The goal is to create a unique web interface model that will allow rural patients with diabetes to receive ongoing diabetes care. Not only will the patient care be administered via the web between in-person visits, the project will also allow them to begin to develop an electronic medical records system that helps physicians' access patient information from a single electronic, web-based source.

### **Fargo- Prairieland Home Care**

The Prairieland Home Care is a not-for-profit homecare agency. This agency will purchase additional telehealth units which will supplement the existing telehealth program located in Bottineau and will serve Harvey, Rugby, Carrington and Rolla. These units use a simple telephone line to connect the technology which can monitor daily a variety of patient conditions such as diabetes and heart disease. Illnesses can be managed and controlled in the comfort of ones' home using high-tech disease management, without having a nurse drive to the patient's home.

### **Hettinger - West River Health Services**

The project will use funds to further develop electronic health record for the ambulatory and outpatient service areas including rural health clinics in Bowman, New England, Mott, Scranton, Lemmon, Buffalo. The project goal is to improve decision making and quality care for patients in the service area, through the use of EMR which will improve the timely transmission and access to health care information.

### **Lisbon- Lisbon Area Health Services**

This facility will purchase a computed radiography or CR, and a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) line which will allow images to be transmitted digitally to the radiologist's in Fargo. Patients will have final radiologist readings within hours, rather than a week, sent to their personal physician. The patient's films would also remain in the facility for availability to local physicians. Local physicians will have immediate access to information improving the quality of patient care.

### **Rolla- Presentation Medical Center**

The project will include Presentation Medical Center, Rolla and St. Andrew's Health Center in Bottineau which will work together to research, analyze and select a Laboratory Information System (LIS). These facilities will share equipment and supplies in an effort to maintain access to services and reduce costs. This project proposes to expand quality improvement and the peer review process by sharing procedures and information.

### **Williston- Mercy Medical Center**

Mercy Medical Center is partnering with nine smaller rural communities. They are requesting funding to create a regional Picture Archiving Communication System (PACS) that assists rural communities in maintaining radiological access and services to ensure access to adequate care in their communities that is cost-effective and increases the quality of patient care.