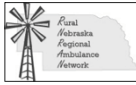



June 16th, 2014
 International Roundtable on
 Community Paramedicine

The Rural Nebraska Regional Ambulance Network (RNRAN)

***Exploring the use of Community
 Paramedics to aid in reducing Hospital re-
 admissions at Regional West Medical
 Center (RWMC) Scottsbluff NE***



GOOD MORNING!



Objectives

1. Rural Nebraska Regional Ambulance Network development and current status.
2. Reduction of re-admissions -
3. Overview of the pilot project utilizing both Registered Nurses and Paramedics
4. Rural Healthcare challenges and needs of hospital discharged patients
5. Care Provider profiles and identify the differences and similarities in the approaches to patient care.

RNRAN Mission Statement

"To improve the quality of care by providing better coordination of ground and air ambulance transportation to the citizens of central and western Nebraska through an integrated and collaborative network of ambulance services, hospitals, dispatch agencies and any other interested entities."



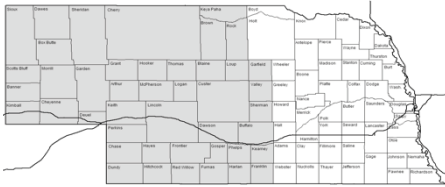
Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
EMS/Trauma Program
Trauma System Regions



<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/ems/emsindex.htm>

Map 011 Nov 2010

RNRRAN - AREA



RNRRAN Area

- 50 of Nebraska's 93 counties
- Includes Trauma Regions 3 and 4
- 33 counties designated as Medically Underserved Populations
- 19 counties classified as Health Provider Shortage Areas for primary care
- 2010 Scottsbluff population 15,039
- Square miles = 53,051 (70% of State)







RNRRAN – 501C 4 Status

RNRRAN – Legal Structure

501(c) tax-exempt nonprofit organization in the United States

(4) organizations may inform the public on controversial subjects and attempt to influence legislation relevant to its program

Regional West Medical Center

RWMC is a fully accredited acute care regional medical center serving a population of over 120,000 in western Nebraska and portions of South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado.

Regional West is one of just three Level II Trauma Centers in Nebraska, as verified by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma and designated by the State of Nebraska Health and Human Services Department.



RWMC

Regional West Medical Center is a general medical and surgical hospital in Scottsbluff, NE, with 145 beds.

It is also accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

16,366 patients visited the hospital's emergency room.

7,648 admissions.

Its physicians performed 2,128 inpatient and 8,644 outpatient surgeries.

RNRRAN/RWMC – Pilot project

***Published in the Nebraska Medicine
Spring Addition 2014***

Readmission Rates

Unnecessary ED visits

Outcomes measured to determine effectiveness of the health maintenance and teaching model based on readmissions.

RWMC - Readmission

READMISSION:

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), which reports to Congress, has estimated that 12 percent of Medicare patients may be readmitted for potentially avoidable reasons.

Averting one out of every 10 of those returns could save Medicare \$1 billion,

MedPAC says. (Hagland, 2013)

RWMC - Challenges

The rural area in the panhandle of Nebraska presents unique challenges in recruiting and retaining adequate numbers of medical providers and nurses. In a rural setting, creativity and looking beyond traditional models is necessary.

COLLABORATION / Acknowledgements

The pilot project was coordinated by:

- Randy Meininger, NRP, ASM, owner of Valley Ambulance;
- Diana Rohrick, RN, BSN, home health director, RWMC;
- Shirley Knodel, RN, MS, CNO/VP RWMC;
- Jeffrey Holloway, MD, medical director for the project,
- And Regional West Medical Center

RNRAN/RWMC – Pilot project

The Pilot Project

Discharged patients:

- One Medical Floor
- Diagnosis – CHF and or pneumonia
- Discharge Staff invited patients to participate
- Randomly assigned RN or Paramedic

Who participated in the pilot?

What did the data show?

What did we learn?

RNRAN/RWMC – Pilot project

Overview of the Care Provider Profiles:

- License Level
- Total Years Experience

RWMC – Pilot project DATA

February 2013 to December 2013

	Total Patients	Total re-admits	Re-admit Rate
Total Patient Population *	159	34	21.4%
Study Group Participants – Sample Group	63	9	14.3%
Non- Participants – Comparison Group	96	25	26.0%

RWMC – Pilot project DATA
February 2013 to December 2013

	Total Patients	Total re-admits	Re- admit Rate
Study Group Participants – Sample Group	63	9	14.3%
Heart Failure Diagnosis	26	1	3.8%
Pneumonia Diagnosis	32	6	18.8%
Other Diagnosis – Patients who were included as identified as CHF or Pneumonia on discharge – but did not have these Diagnosis on final coding	5	4	80.0%

RWMC – Pilot project DATA
February 2013 to December 2013

	Total Patients	Total re-admits	Re- admit Rate
Study Group Participants – Sample Group	63	9	14.3%
Advanced Care Paramedic Home Visits	37	4	10.8%
Home Health RN Home Visits	26	5	19.2%

Full Year Data

RWMC – Pilot project DATA

February 2013 to February 2014

	Total Patients	Total re-admits	Re-admit Rate
Total Patient Population *	198	40	20.2%
Study Group Participants – Sample Group	69	12	17.4%
Non- Participants – Comparison Group	129	28	21.7%

RWMC – Pilot project DATA

February 2013 to February 2014

	Total Patients	Total re-admits	Re-admit Rate
Study Group Participants – Sample Group	69	12	17.4%
Heart Failure Diagnosis	28	3	10.7%
Pneumonia Diagnosis	36	7	19.4%
Other Diagnosis <small>*** Patients who were included as identified as CHF or Pneumonia on discharge – but did not have these Diagnosis on final coding</small>	5	2	40.0%

RWMC – Pilot project DATA

February 2013 to February 2014

	Total Patients	Total re-admits	Re-admit Rate
Study Group Participants – Sample Group	69	12	17.4%
Advanced Care Paramedic Home Visits	39	4	10.3%
Home Health RN Home Visits	30	8	26.7%

RNRRAN/RWMC – Pilot project

Lesson's learned

- Medication Reconciliation
- Communication to Primary Care Provider regarding Admit / Discharge



RNRRAN/RWMC – Pilot project

Lesson's learned

- Follow up appointments being made to primary care physician
Weekend Discharges
- Discharge Instructions – not with the patient

RNRRAN/RWMC – Pilot project

Lesson's learned

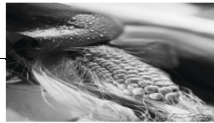
- Inconsistent message from the “clinic” if patient called for f/u
- Referrals to Home Health care occurred on 3 patients



COLLABORATION - PILOT

Collaboration was key to this project.
This was not Advanced Care Paramedic VS Nurse.
The focus was on health maintenance and teaching





THANK YOU
Nebraska the Good Life

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