

Rural Electronic Records

Fact or Fiction?

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7.04 Rural Electronic Records
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Where in the world is Tecumseh, Nebraska ?

And.....



Do they even use computers?

Johnson County Hospital

- 18 bed
 - Critical Access
 - Swing Bed Unit
 - OB Unit
 - ICU / ER
 - 10 Outpatient Clinics
 - 78 total staff
 - 4 physicians, 2PA, 1NP
- 1 hr SW of Omaha
 - population 2,000
 - 1 blinking stoplight
 - Only hospital in county

Rural

Midwest = Greater geographic distances, isolation

New York = Socio-economic status



Fiction

- **Fiction** is the term used to describe works of information created from the imagination
- This is in contrast to non-fiction, which makes factual claims about reality.

Myths

- Universal physician resistance
- Small facilities play no role
- Same culture, same agenda
- It won't take long, once we decide
- Rural is smaller so it's less complex

Double edged sword?

In one sense it's easier to implement and control because we're smaller.....but at the same time it's harder because it's so large of a project that something may be overlooked.

Depopulation of Great Plains

- Youth are leaving
- Professionals in other career fields
- Culture is changing

Rural Patient Facts

- Elderly
- Poor, high rate of poverty
- Economically dependent
- Risk of leaving is a barrier
- Hope for growth

Rural Facts

- Financial burden
- Fear of change
- Lack of qualified professionals, specialists
- Baby steps, technology lacking
- Access to care
- Shortage of services

Positive Note

- Alliances
- Networks
- Dedicated & Committed
- Grants

Partnership



- Heartland Health Alliance
- Nebraska Hospital Assn
- COMS – Clinical Outcomes Management System

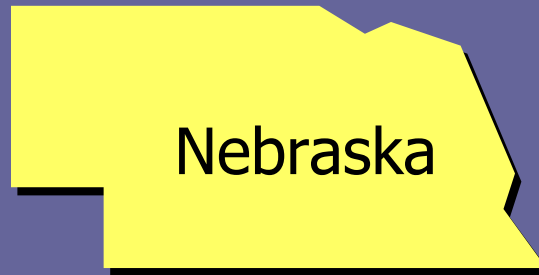
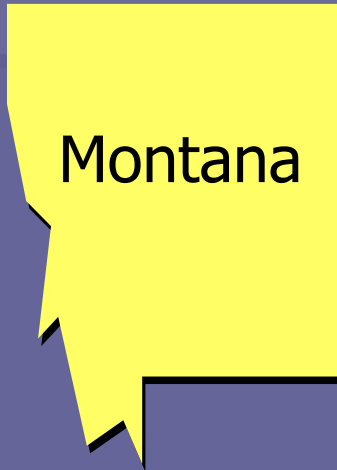
COMS

- Flex program – Office of Rural Health
- COMS uniform discharge reporting system
- Peer comparison, statewide
- Grants fund pay 1/2

UNMC Medication Errors Project



Benchmarking Project Quality



Digital Link

- Nebraska Public Service Commission
- \$900,000 calendar year
- Currently 31
- Opportunity for 48/85 hospitals
- Secure broadband intranet
- Subsidize monthly connection fees

Radiology - Telemedicine



Trauma

- Lifeflight
- Regional Trauma Centers
- Better Communication

Educational Opportunities

- **Video Conferencing**
- **Nursing Inservices**
- **Workshops**
- **Professional CEU's**

Mental Health

- Services not readily available
- Counseling
- Emergency Admit

Bioterrorism / Security



Geographic Terrain



EMS FOCUS



Benefits of EMR

- Immediate access
- No lost charts
- Standardization of patient care
- Organized data, easy analysis
- Reduction of errors
- Coding efficiency
- Data availability for QI, risk, utilization

How will this be accomplished?

- National level to oversee
- Statewide agencies, similar to QIO's
- Coordinated to ensure consistency
- Training and education

Strategies

- Incentives
- Reduce the risk of investment
- Promote implementation in rural and underserved areas

HIM Professionals

Technical



Operational

Bridging the gap.....

Incubation phase

- Incubation depends on the maturity of the infrastructure needed to support the technology.
- 50 years for stethoscope



“in this room”

- You have made a choice to listen
- You have expressed an interest
- Will become advocate or adversary
- Critical stakeholder
- Rural needs a voice in Washington, DC

Thank you for
sharing your time 😊

Have a safe trip
home...