

## Addressing the Need for Continuing Medical Education Using Kan-ed

"I just can't emphasize enough what a service Kan-ed provides for a rural area... Without Kan-ed, we could not reach the places we reach."



### ST. CATHERINE HOSPITAL

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)-accredited health care center in Garden City, Kansas, with 132 acute beds

Kan-ed Member since:  
 September 18, 2002

### PIONEER HEALTH NETWORK

Serves: 16 member hospitals

Kan-ed Affiliate since:  
 2003

### LANE COUNTY HOSPITAL

Short-term acute care hospital in Dighton, Kansas with 17 acute beds and 21 nursing home beds

Kan-ed Member since:  
 May 20, 2003

Every Wednesday, nine months out of the year, St. Catherine Hospital and the Pioneer Health Network (PHN) provide continuing medical education (CME), through the Kan-ed 2.0 network, to physicians and nurses in Kansas. Sharon Rupp, CME Coordinator at St. Catherine, described the process, "We broadcast out to any facility in southwest Kansas or even some in northern Kansas that want to dial into the Kan-ed bridge and take advantage of our continuing education. Out here in western Kansas, we're the only one offering the service for them to get continuing education and not have to travel. Sometimes we'll have five other sites. Sometimes we'll have ten or twelve. It's really neat." According to the Kansas Board of Healing Arts, physicians need a minimum of 50 hours of CME training a year to keep their medical license current with the state of Kansas.

St. Catherine and PHN connect local physicians and nurses to CME resources across Kansas and the nation using the Kan-ed 2.0 network. Mary Adams, Executive Director of PHN, related, "Now they're broadcasting some of these programs from KU Med Center and from Wesley Medical Center. Actually this semester, we've connected with Pocatello, Idaho, Kentucky, and Nebraska for some of the programs. Our hospitals' education budgets have been completely cut. In order to meet and receive CME instruction, this is a salvation for them." Rupp shared, "Without [PHN], I couldn't do what I do outside of here [St. Catherine]. We could not reach the small, rural areas."

For example, Lane County Hospital in Dighton uses the Kan-ed network to regularly connect to PHN and St. Catherine's CME trainings. Donna McGowan, Lane County Hospital Administrator, shared, "Topeka is five-and-a-half hours one way from here. 'One day' in Topeka ends up being a day and a half for us. When I send two people to a meeting in Wichita or Topeka, it costs us over seven hundred and fifty dollars."

Not only does the Kan-ed 2.0 network provide physicians and nurses with CME courses and access to expertise outside of their field, such as attorneys to explain new healthcare laws, it also provides hospital administration with needed continuing education. Rupp shared, "The business office uses the Kan-ed network in the same manner I do. They bring programs in on various financial things they have to learn." Donna McGowan expressed, "It's the ability to reach more at one time here in the same building. They get to hear the information firsthand versus us relaying the information to them."

Rupp remarked on the impact of the Kan-ed connection on Kansas healthcare providers, "I just can't emphasize enough what a service Kan-ed provides for a rural area. We're talking small towns with family physicians who really don't have any coverage. If they go somewhere for a meeting, there's nobody to treat the patients. The physicians really can't travel to get education. They can do online things, but to see a real live person with real life case studies, that's a great service to them. Without Kan-ed, we could not reach the places we reach."