

Kan-ed Funded Service Facilitates Emergency Communications

Since mid-2008, Wesley Medical Center, a Wichita-based hospital, has employed *EMResource*, a communications and resource management system funded by Kan-ed and made available to all the hospitals and health centers in Kansas. *EMResource* is a browser-based system that facilitates communications between medical response teams and healthcare providers by monitoring healthcare assets, emergency department capacity, and bed availability. *EMResource* creates a log of what has happened and what is currently happening in the network.

Diana Lippoldt, R.N. and Wesley Medical Center Director of Emergency and Trauma Services, and her staff use the Kan-ed sponsored service *EMResource* in daily communications with other medical facilities across the state of Kansas. Lippoldt shared, "We answer bed availability information on an every-morning basis. We use it to identify areas throughout our town and areas throughout the state where they may be having difficulty with bed population, or bed availability. Communication about bed availability between hospitals, communication about whether they're closed due to something. We can look at the entire region, the entire state."

Lippoldt reported that the main task that is carried out on the system is diverting patients to or from Wesley Medical Center. Lack of beds, construction issues, and safety risks at a particular location are some of the reasons why a hospital or clinic may not be able to accept patients. Lippoldt noted, "We use it to identify times when you're really, really busy, and things are happening and you're putting it into that system, or you're getting information out of that system. Later, when you're filling out after-action reports, how long did it take us to do things, there's just a wealth of information out there."

Another important service available through *EMResource* is AMBER Alert notifications. Through the *EMResource* network, healthcare professionals and hospital security are notified of missing children in the area. The hospital staff can view specific information concerning the alert, the situation, and the child.

Essentially, the system provides a direction on who to communicate with in critical situations, and the hospital staff is very satisfied with it, according to Lippoldt. She added, "*EMResource* is one of those systems that's always there; you know you can count on it."



Kan-ed

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Wesley Medical Center

Acute-care center in
Wichita, Kansas,
with 760 beds and
102 bassinets

Member since:
May 15, 2008

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