



NEWS RELEASE

Good afternoon!

I want to share some exciting news about Franciscan Healthcare: We are one of 19 critical-access hospitals that are founding members of the new Nebraska High Value Network.

The purpose of the Nebraska High Value Network is to provide the benefits of size and shared resources to support members as independent hospitals focused on the unique needs of their communities.

As a member of the network, we can take advantage of shared investments that would be beyond the means of our hospital on its own. For example, the network will invest in a clinical data-sharing platform that helps patients take steps to get the care they need when they need it.

The cornerstone of the NHVN is a clinically integrated network (CIN) caring for nearly 300,000 patients at the 19 member hospitals. A Clinical Integration Committee, with a physician from each member hospital, will lead efforts to enhance quality and care coordination, and reduce administrative burdens for medical providers.

The hospitals in the network also will work together on measures to lower the cost of purchasing equipment and services. Our hospital can choose which of these collaborations to participate in.

The Nebraska High Value Network is built on the belief that our member hospitals can achieve more by working together. Strengthening rural hospitals to allow them to remain independent is the best way to serve the healthcare needs of our community for the long term.

If you have any questions, please refer to the PUBLIC FAQ sheet attached to this press release.

Sincerely,
Tyler Toline, CEO
Franciscan Healthcare

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PUBLIC FAQ

What is the Nebraska High Value Network?

The Nebraska High Value Network brings together 19 critical-access hospitals across the state to strengthen healthcare in rural communities. The hospitals will collaborate on clinical and business initiatives that enhance care, control costs and support value-based care arrangements with insurers.

The purpose of the Nebraska High Value Network is to provide the benefits of size and shared resources to member hospitals to strengthen their ability to remain independent. Staying independent allows our hospital to continue to tailor decisions about healthcare in our community to the needs of our patients and providers.

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Who are the founding members of the Nebraska High Value Network?

Hospital	City
Boone County Health Center	Albion, NE
Brodstone Healthcare	Superior, NE
Butler County Health	David City, NE
Callaway District Hospital	Callaway, NE
Cherry County Hospital	Valentine, NE
Cozad Community Health System	Cozad, NE
Fillmore County Hospital	Geneva, NE
Franciscan Healthcare	West Point, NE
Harlan County Health System	Alma, NE
Howard County Medical Center	St. Paul, NE
Jennie M. Melham Memorial Medical Center	Broken Bow, NE
Lexington Regional Health Center	Lexington, NE
Memorial Community Health	Aurora, NE
Memorial Health Care Systems	Seward, NE
Phelps Memorial Health Center	Holdrege, NE
Sidney Regional Medical Center	Sidney, NE
Tri Valley Health System	Cambridge, NE
Valley County Health System	Ord, NE
York General Health Care Services	York, NE



Is our hospital becoming part of a big health system?

No. Our hospital, like every member of the Nebraska HVN, remains an independent hospital that can remain focused on the needs of our community. The purpose of the Nebraska High Value Network is to provide the benefits of size and shared resources to member hospitals to strengthen their ability to remain independent.

Why is our hospital joining Nebraska HVN?

Hospitals and physician groups in Nebraska, and across the country, face mounting challenges to delivering the care our communities need. These challenges include investing in care delivery, controlling the cost of providing care, improving patient experience, and recruiting and retaining physicians.

Many solutions for solving these challenges involve building up greater scale, from larger patient populations and physician networks to systems for purchasing, recruitment and clinical collaboration. Scale will always be difficult for an independent rural hospital to achieve if it stands alone.

The Nebraska High Value Network is built on the belief that our member hospitals can achieve more by working together. Strengthening rural hospitals to allow them to remain independent is the best way to serve the healthcare needs of our communities for the long term.

Are we joining this network because our hospital is in financial trouble?

No. Our hospital has recorded strong financial performance over the past few years, even as we face a difficult operating environment. Joining the Nebraska HVN will allow us to take advantage of joint purchasing that saves money. Our hospital also will take part in clinical and operational committees where we can share best practices with our peers around the state.

How will decisions about healthcare in our community be made after joining the network?

Exactly the same way that they are now: Our board and health system leaders—who live and work in our community—will continue to make those decisions. We are joining this network to accomplish things that we cannot do on our own. Making decisions about healthcare in our community is not one of those things.

What does joining the Nebraska HVN mean for local patients?



By working together with other independent rural hospitals, we will pool our clinical and business know-how to ensure continued access to high-quality care that strengthens our community. These efforts will improve care coordination, support medical practitioners and promote more efficient operations.

As the collaboration deepens among members, the network will be a strong partner with payers on value-based insurance products that improve quality, reduce cost, and enhance patient and provider experience.

What are some specific benefits patients will see from our hospital joining this network?

Sustaining high-quality care in our community for the long term is great news for patients. Here are some specific benefits that patients will see from our hospital's membership in the Nebraska HVN:

- Clinical initiatives through the network will enable members to benchmark their performance and find areas to further enhance clinical quality.
- The data platform members will participate in enables better care coordination for patients who need treatment at multiple locations.
- Reducing administrative burdens on clinicians leaves them more time to focus on patients, and over time, can help reduce burnout. That helps us retain excellent physicians and other providers in our community.
- The members can work together with insurers on value-based arrangements that go beyond what an individual hospital can achieve on its own. Patients benefit when insurers and hospitals develop these win-win relationships.
- The members will bolster their ability to control costs for equipment and contracted services by negotiating as a group, and controlling these costs helps maintain affordability for patients.

How are medical practitioners, nurses and employees of the hospital affected by joining the Nebraska HVN?

The network's clinical and business initiatives will promote greater stability and success for its members. When our hospitals and clinics thrive, our medical providers, nurses and other employees benefit, too. Physicians and business leaders can join the network's clinical and operational committees, respectively, where they can discuss their challenges with peers around the state.

Will you still accept my health insurance?



Yes, joining the Nebraska HVN has no immediate impact on our contracts with health insurers. As the collaboration deepens among members, the network will be a strong partner with insurers on value-based insurance products that improve quality, reduce cost, and enhance patient and provider experience.

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