

14-Feb-08 2:45 PM EST



Rural Hospital Benefits from HD Videoconferencing Supported by OSCnet

Chillicothe's Adena Health System has reported strong outcomes as a result of a telemedicine program it piloted linking the rural hospital to Nationwide Children's Hospital via high definition videoconferencing made possible in part through the Ohio Supercomputer Center. In its first year, physicians were able to make quicker and more accurate clinical assessments in a real-time, uninterrupted environment thanks to hd videoconferencing. Doctors report one of the most significant benefits this program provides is in facilitating the decision to transfer critical care newborns from the Chillicothe hospital to Nationwide Children's. "If a baby needs to be moved to our facility, doctors have seen the child, reviewed their diagnostic images and can prepare for the infant's care as soon as he or she arrives," said Dr. Stephen Welty, chief of neonatology for Nationwide Children's. This approach can also support the equally important decision not to transfer the child thus avoiding unnecessary stress to the infant and family.

The FCC awarded \$417 million to 69 regional telehealth networks. Three of these networks will connect to Broadband Ohio's backbone and utilize OSCnet to access Internet2 in order to serve Ohioans in nearly half the state's 88 counties.

For more information:

<http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/gd/applications/controller.cfm?page=204&id=467&type=new>

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Source: Nationwide Children's Hospital



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