

# *Connect to Care*

**A Telecommunications Project of CAMC Health Education and  
Research Institute In Collaboration with the  
West Virginia Perinatal Partnership**





## West Virginia Perinatal Telehealth Project

**WV Perinatal Telehealth Project Description.** Working with the West Virginia Perinatal Partnership, CAMC Institute designed and developed a statewide Perinatal Telehealth Program. The Program provided rural health care sites with the equipment and training to link their organizations (and obstetricians, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, nurses, pregnant women and their families) with tertiary care centers (and perinatologists). This project makes it possible for high risk pregnant women and their health care providers to receive perinatal consultation services, education and obstetrical referrals without leaving their rural providers. The project allows high risk newborn in rural hospitals and clinics to receive consultations with specialists at centers that are many miles away.

### Project Funding:

Department of Agriculture; Rural Urban Systems Grant  
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation  
West Virginia Health Care Authority  
Matching funds from participating Sites

### Original Participating Sites

#### Rural Hospitals:

Davis Memorial Hospital  
Grant Memorial Hospital  
Preston Memorial Hospital  
Roane General Hospital  
Stonewall General Hospital  
Summersville Memorial Hospital  
Williamson Memorial Hospital  
Greenbrier Valley Medical Center  
St. Joseph's Hospital - Buckhannon

#### Primary Care Centers:

Community Health Foundation of Man  
Lincoln Primary Care Center  
Primary Care Systems - Clay County  
Roane Co. Family Health Care  
Valley Health Systems - Fort Gay  
Valley Health Systems - Wayne  
Valley Health - Mill Creek  
Family Care - Madison

#### Changes in Original Participating Sites:

- Preston Memorial Hospital stopped providing obstetric and newborn services but kept equipment to use for other specialties.
- Primary Care Systems - Clay County stopped providing prenatal care but kept equipment to use for other specialties.
- Roane General Hospital stopped providing obstetric and newborn service but kept equipment to use for other specialties.
- Valley Health - Mill Creek stopped providing prenatal care and transferred the equipment to one of the clinics other sites in Elkins.

### Measurable Goals & Specific Outcomes:

- **17 rural healthcare sites** will have access to obstetric/perinatal care via telemedicine consults for the first time
- Pregnant mothers located in **14 rural counties** will receive better and more frequent care due to greater accessibility of healthcare
- **353,250 rural county residents** will realize additional benefits from this project through access to the videoconferencing equipment provided in their local areas. This equipment will provide access to general healthcare consults, healthcare education, first aid and basic healthcare training for local responders, communication and information gathering sessions with a variety of social service organizations, etc.

### Project Update: March, 2010 - May 2013

1. **Site visits to rural and tertiary sites** conducted by representatives from the WV Perinatal Partnership and CAMC Institute conducted during the spring, summer, fall of 2011 and 2012.
2. **Financial Considerations:** Documentation necessary to meet USDA requirements for “match” were prepared and processed for approval; this was necessary before any equipment could be purchased for tertiary and rural sites. This included processing documentation to receive a \$50,000 matching grant from the WV Healthcare Authority. Continued reporting/documentation to the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation for their grant to fund a project coordinator and to provide support for project coordination, site travel, and education and awareness projects for all sites.
3. **Website Enhancement.** With the WV Perinatal Partnership taking a lead role; information related to the WV Perinatal Telehealth Network was posted on the Partnership’s website.
4. **All tertiary care centers (perinatologists) have received equipment** to provide consultation services. These sites include:
  - Cabell Huntington Hospital - Huntington, WV
  - CAMC - Women and Children’s Hospital, Charleston, WV
  - WVU Hospital-Ruby Memorial, Morgantown, WV
5. **Equipment specifications for the rural sites have been completed** and equipment was ordered. Delivery for these sites took place for spring/summer 2011. The WV Telehealth Alliance has provided opportunities for reduced or enhanced broadband capabilities for these rural sites thru a project with the FCC. There has been some delay in getting rural sites assessed for the delivery of these broadband services. Broadband will be rolled out to most sites during the spring, 2011.
6. **Education, Awareness and Development Meetings**

A series of meetings and statewide planning workshops were held in an effort to educate and receive input about the project. These events included:

- WV Perinatal Summit - November 11-12, 2010
- WV Perinatal Telecommunications Advisory Board - September 22, 2010  
Billing and Reimbursement Issues
- WV Perinatal Telecommunications Advisory Board -

- Education/Project Update - Web Series #1- February 22, 2011 - Topic: Credentialing Issues
- WV Perinatal Telecommunications Advisory Board -
  - Education/Project Update - Web Series #2- March 22, 2011 - Topic: Credentialing Issues
- WV Perinatal Telecommunications Advisory Board -
  - Education/Project Update - Web Series #3- April 26, 2011 - Topic: Clinical Assessment

## **7. Equipment deployment**

Equipment roll-out was completed during the summer of 2012 and site testing was conducted with the tertiary referral sites. Perinatal consultations began in 2012.

## **8. Currently the following types of consultations are occurring**

- High-Risk Prenatal Consults
- Neonatal Consults
- Fetal or Pediatric Cardiology Consults
- Pediatric Neurology Consults

## **9. Usage**

Currently usage of equipment for consultations is not as high as expected. Initially, all sites were provided with logbooks to keep track of usage. So far, four sites have conducted 32 consultations.