



AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2012

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ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL LAUNCHES TELEMEDICINE TO PROVIDE RURAL PATIENTS WITH ACCESS TO SPECIALTY NEUROLOGICAL CARE

SPRINGFIELD – To ensure access to specialty care for all patients in our service area, St. John's Hospital, in collaboration with SIU Department of Neurology, is launching a telemedicine program. St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield and Boyd Memorial in Carrollton will be the first remote sites for the program this coming week.

Telemedicine technology electronically transmits medical information via remote devices in order to maximize resources, increase efficiency and maintain high levels of care. Doctors and medical staff use video and audio technology so a physician can evaluate and interact directly with the patient remotely, thus giving patients in rural areas immediate access to neurology specialists at St. John's Neurosciences Institute.

"Access to care, both primary and specialty care, is vital for saving lives and improving outcomes," said Gurpreet Mander, MD, MBA, Medical Director of St. John's Regional Referral Center. "When minutes count, such in the case of a suspected stroke or aneurysm, telemedicine brings world-class neurology resources to patients, medical staffs, and physicians in a coordinated, efficient manner."

The new Telemedicine program builds on CONNECT, St. John's regional referral system. Last year, approximately 5000 patients in rural areas were transferred to St. John's for life-saving services that are not available at their local hospital. Telemedicine further advances St. John's commitment to provide high-quality health care as efficiently as possible to everyone.

"We believe everyone deserves excellent health care, and we are committed to investing in the people and technology to serve as many people in our region the best we can," said Robert Ritz, CEO and President of St. John's. "Our Neurosciences Institute offers advanced procedures that are only available at St. John's. With the advent of Telemedicine, our neurological physician specialists interact 'face-to-face' with patients and physicians hundreds of miles away in order to determine the best treatment plan. This means better efficiency, and most importantly, better care for patients."

For more information about St. John's Neurosciences Institute, please visit www.st-johns.org.

ABOUT HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. It is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy, at each of its 13 Local Systems in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator) and in Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org.

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