
Flex Program News

Mobile Workshop Brings Emergency Procedures To The Community

Oregon Health & Science University's (OHSU) Department of Emergency Medicine offers a hands-on, Rural Emergency Procedures Training Workshop, which travels to rural communities. The workshop is individualized for rural hospitals, and covers emergency room procedures requested by the participants.

The training program is in the third year of a four-year grant and has already traveled to many of Oregon's rural hospitals to provide specially tailored workshops. "The communities we have not yet visited are fewer than those we have," said Dr. Harold Thomas, M.D., director of OHSU's Emergency Medicine Education Section and main facilitator of the workshops. "We would like to visit Ashland, Enterprise, Newport, Ontario, Pendleton and The Dalles before the grant ends in September."

An on-site workshop requires at least five, and no more than ten, participants. The target audience of the program is rural physicians, but rural nurse practitioners, physician assistants, RNs and paramedics are invited to join the workshop.

The OHSU School of Medicine, Division of CME, has designated the workshop for a maximum of 6.5 hours of category I credit toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. The cost for each physician wanting to earn CME credit is \$50.00, otherwise, the course is free of charge.

"We will work on any reasonable problem that may be seen in the local E.R. Courses are tailored for a community's greatest needs," said Dr. Thomas. Some of the hands-on procedures being offered include: Fractures and Dislocations, Advanced Difficult Airway (rescue techniques), Intraosseous Lines and Pericardiocentesis.

For many rural physicians working in emergency room settings these are critical, yet seldom used, skills. "Most physicians have these skills, but they don't get to use them often in the rural emergency room." That is why Dr. Thomas is planning a review course in February 2005 for those who have attended the first course.

If you are interested in scheduling a free hands-on Emergency Procedure Training Workshop at your hospital please contact Dr. Thomas at 503-4940105, thomash@ohsu.edu, or Heidi Gonzalez at 503-494-0105, gonzaleh@ohsu.edu at the OHSU Department of Emergency Medicine.

Network Development Planning Grant Call

The federal Office of Rural Health Policy is holding a technical assistance conference call for Network Development Planning Grant program applicants held on August 5, 2004, at 2:00 EST. Applicants should email Mary Collier at mcollier@hrsa.gov by August 2 to sign up for this call.

