

# Health Care

As the most comprehensive health care facility in western Nebraska, **Regional West Medical Center's (RWMC)** specialized care rivals many urban medical centers. Licensed for 164 beds, RWMC is accredited the Joint Commission and has been recognized as one of the country's 100 Most Wired rural hospitals.

For more than 25 years, RWMC has served as a regional referral center for the 11 panhandle counties, eastern Wyoming, northeastern Colorado and southwestern South Dakota. Founded as a community hospital in 1924, RWMC has grown by developing services that allow patients to receive the care they need, close to home.

RWMC is home to one of Nebraska's most advanced interventional radiology suites. The state-of-the-art facility allows our physicians to provide the least invasive treatment available for complex medical procedures.

As one of three Level II Trauma Centers in the state, Regional West provides 24-hour emergency and trauma care over a vast 150-mile radius.

In the Health Grades Hospital Quality in America Study, RWMC was ranked number one in Nebraska for overall orthopaedic services for the third year in a row and among the top five per-

cent in the nation for five years in a row. These awards are a credit to our orthopaedic surgeons as well as our nursing and clinical staff whose fine work and quality patient care have helped achieve this national recognition.

Our Cancer Treatment Center received an American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer outstanding achievement award making us the only one in Nebraska and one of 66 nationwide to be honored. We also received designation as a Bariatrics Surgery Center of Excellence,

making our medical center one of two Nebraska hospitals to be so recognized.

**Regional West Physicians Clinic** is the newest subsidiary of Regional West Health Services. Modeled after physician hospital integration at Mayo Clinic, the Cleveland Clinic, and Billings Clinic, the hospital and physicians now share leadership in improving quality management and patient care. With physician hospital integration, the physicians have more time to devote to patient care, health care governance, leadership and community outreach. The following clinics are part of Regional West Physicians Clinic:

- Anesthesiology
- Ear, Nose & Throat, Head & Neck Surgery
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine:
  - Gering, Mitchell, Morrill & Scottsbluff locations
- Internal Medicine
- Interventional Radiology
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedics
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Surgery, Vascular Diagnostics
- Urgent Care
- Urology
- Women's Center

The medical center offers family practice and rural emergency medical residency programs through the



**University of Nebraska Medical Center** and serves as a clinical training site for a wide variety health professions. Scottsbluff is also home to **University of Nebraska Medical Center School of Nursing**. Our clinical emphasis focuses on the differences in practice facing rural vs. urban doctors. The Regional West School of Radiologic Technology was created in 1951. Rotations and clinical education are available for students in such areas as nursing, mid-level provider and emergency medical services programs, as well.

We realize there is a fine line between providing excellent care in every area and the value of partnering with facilities for advanced care. In early 2007, Medical Center of the Rockies, a joint venture between Regional West Health Services and Poudre Valley Health Services in Fort Collins, opened its doors to provide specialized cardiac and trauma care. To learn more about RWMC please visit [www.rwhs.org](http://www.rwhs.org).

The **Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska** provides affordable primary medical care, dental care, migrant health care and behavioral health services. Additional services available on-site include radiology, laboratory, medication assistance, immunizations, HIV/HEP C testing and counseling. They contract with a local pharmacy for reduced priced prescriptions. Health care costs are covered by insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and private pay on a sliding fee schedule based on family size and income.

Supporting public health programs within the Health Center include WIC, Reproductive Health, Diabetes Care, Minority Health, Ryan White Title III, and Health Disparities Collaborative (Diabetes, Cardiovascular and Depression). These public health programs are a combination of prevention based services that are intended to compliment and enhance the primary care services in the clinic, thus providing for long-term "prevention" of disease and malnutrition.

The Health Center employs 63 staff people. This includes one family physician, four physician assistants, nurses/lab/x-ray personnel and three dentists including one in Chadron, three family practice residents, dental hygienists and dental assistants. The center also partners with Regional West to provide twenty-four hour / seven days a week on-call staff. The Health Center is the site for nursing students from UNMC's College of Nursing and the continuity clinic for the University of Nebraska Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Milton (Pete) Johnson is the Medical Director and supervises the residents from the University. Dr. David Imes is the Migrant Health Medical Director. The Health Center is the extramural site for dental hygiene students from the

UNMC College of Dentistry and for senior dental students. Dr. Nathan Luehrs is the Dental Director. Dr. Bill Burman from Denver Health and Hospital provides quarterly clinics for the HIV program.



They also provide an array of services in its four other departments: Child Development Programs, Housing Services, Family and Community Development and Youth Services. All the programs interact cooperatively to provide comprehensive services for the people of Western Nebraska.

### OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Scottsbluff, Gering and Terrytown are fortunate to have a great selection of professionals to address any health care needs. Local health care professions include chiropractic, dentistry (oral surgery, orthodontics and general dentistry), family counseling, optometry, podiatry, psychology, massage therapy, acupuncture, wellness, plastic surgery, assisted living, nursing homes, ambulance services and walk-in clinics.



**Webb Eyecare and Webb Orthodontics**