



Salina Regional
Health Center

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact – John Berggren

Public Relations Coordinator

Salina Regional Health Center

(785) 452-7830

Salina Regional recognized for most complete use of patient video monitoring system

(April 25, 2016) – Salina Regional Health Center has received the Safety and Innovation Award from AvaSure, the maker and distributor of the AvaSys video monitoring system now in use in hundreds of hospitals nationwide.

The Safety and Innovation Award was earned for having the most complete AvaSys program. Salina Regional is using the technology to improve a number of patient safety initiatives including fall prevention, maintaining IV therapy and oxygen tubing, enhancing patient self-harm precautions and reducing infection control risk.

“Using our unique ability to gather and analyze data from our clients’ use of AvaSys, it was clear that Salina stood out from the crowd for having the broadest spectrum program of video monitoring,” said Brad W. Playford, AvaSure’s founder and CEO. “We see this organization as a model for extending the reach of AvaSys to achieve new efficiencies across a wide range of processes within the hospital.”

AvaSys is essentially a portable video monitoring system with two-way audio that can be brought into a patient’s room to remotely monitor their wellbeing. The system does not record. A specially trained patient safety attendant in a remote location can use the technology to audibly intervene and communicate with a patient and notify staff when issues might be arising. The systems are most commonly used when family members for high-risk patients are unable to stay with the patient 24 hours a day. Patients at high risk for an adverse outcome include those who may be disoriented or agitated due to their medication, those with

dementia-related confusion, those undergoing drug/alcohol withdrawal and those with a high likelihood for falls.

The AvaSys technology is used to complement Salina Regional's patient sitters who provide a more personal presence in high-risk patient rooms. However, access to available patient sitters can sometimes be limited and implementation of the AvaSys technology has helped meet patient needs for safety monitoring.

Since implementing the technology in June 2015 Salina Regional has seen a decrease in the number of inpatient acute care falls from approximately six falls per 1,000 patient days to less than four falls per 1,000 patient days – or a 57.8 percent decrease.

“We were first drawn to this technology for its potential to decrease patient falls, especially unassisted patient falls, which can drastically affect patient outcomes,” said Luanne Smith, vice president and chief nursing officer at Salina Regional Health Center. “As we began implementing it we also began to see how it could improve infection control measures and help maintain IV and oxygen tubing.”

Patient safety attendants stop in to introduce themselves to patients to help put a face behind the camera in the room and verify that the nurse call system is within patient reach and other safety precautions are in place. Patient safety attendants rotate at least every two hours to reduce monitor fatigue.

Salina Regional currently has 12 portable AvaSys devices, which are almost always 100 percent utilized. The hospital is considering expansion of its system to include more devices.

Two other hospitals also received recognition from AvaSys. Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital, Schenectady, N.Y. received the Path to Zero Award for the most impressive falls reduction program and Beaumont Health, an eight-hospital system in suburban Detroit, earned the Hub and Spoke Award for the most efficient use by a multi-site organization using a single remote observation center.

###