



GREAT PLAINS  
COMMUNICATIONS  
CASE STUDY

***“Having our own dedicated fiber line from Great Plains Communications that connects all of our facilities is a huge factor for SRMC. It allows us to have one data center and equips us to work more efficiently.”***

JENNIFER BROCKHAUS  
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER  
SIDNEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

## COMPANY

Sidney Regional Medical Center

## LOCATION

Sidney, NE and Chappell, NE

## INDUSTRY

Healthcare

## SERVICES

Healthcare services including Accute Care, Critical Care, 24-Hour Emergency Room, Walk-In Clinic, Physicians Clinic, Home Health and Hospice, Surgical Services, Assisted Living, and More

Sidney Regional Medical Center (SRMC) is a Critical Access Hospital in Sidney that serves a seven-county area in the southern Nebraska panhandle. In addition to their medical staff, SRMC has nearly 20 visiting providers who specialize in areas such as ENT, cardiology, gastroenterology, orthopedic surgery, pain management, and podiatry.

Internet technology is helping SRMC improve the quality and efficiency of patient health care. Currently, Great Plains Communications is providing Sidney Regional Medical Center with:

- » Connections to Fort Collins for imaging
- » Connections to SRMC’s satellite office in Chappell, NE
- » Redundant fiber routes in and out of Sidney for Direct Internet Access
- » Backup for their Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network route

***“There are many examples of how our high-speed Internet connections are enhancing health care. We can send radiology images more quickly to our radiologist due to the direct fiber connections to Fort Collins. Providers at our satellite facility in Chappell can access patient charts more efficiently and document in real time. SRMC is also able to electronically fill prescriptions including those for controlled substances.”***

-JENNIFER BROCKHAUS, SRMC

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One more example is the SRMC Patient Portal, which is part of the national initiative for patients and providers to use

electronic health records (EHR) to improve communication and quality of care. With the Patient Portal, patients can access their health records electronically as well as schedule appointments, pre-register, pay for services, see test results, and communicate with their health care provider.

***“What we appreciate most about Great Plains Communications is the minimal downtime. I can count on one hand how many times we’ve been down, and it’s usually just a matter of minutes.”***

-JENNIFER BROCKHAUS, SRMC

The “next big thing” for Sidney Regional Medical Center will be telemedicine. Telemedicine is more convenient for patients in rural Nebraska and expands access to specialty services. SRMC is working on getting remote sites set up in small towns around Sidney so patients can go to these sites and visit their provider over the Internet. They are also working to bring access to doctors to patients in their homes over a phone, tablet, or computer. The ultimate goal is to make specialty services more available without the need for patients to travel to larger cities.

## How Sidney Regional Medical Center has Benefitted from Fiber

- » Direct fiber connections to Fort Collins allows imaging to be sent more quickly to the radiologist
- » Providers in the satellite office in Chappell can retrieve patient records more efficiently
- » Patient records can be documented in real time
- » Prescriptions can be filled electronically, including those for controlled substances

