

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE STATEMENT ON OPERATIONAL
PROJECTS AFFECTING RURAL AREAS

ALBANY REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAM

Many of the Albany operational activities will serve to enhance the capabilities of health professionals in the rural areas. By bringing professionals from small communities into the medical center for continuing education and by improving communications between the medical center and the communities they hope to raise the level of patient care in those communities. The following projects involve rural areas:

Operational Projects

1. *Two-way Radio Communication System: Direct Cost, \$144,100*

This project will expand an existing two-way radio network to include 57 hospitals and 24 high schools. It will provide continuing education for physicians and allied medical personnel. It will also provide information and education programs for administrators, members of boards of trustees, voluntary health agencies, adult education classes, and selected civic groups.

2. *Community Information Coordinators: Direct Cost, \$73,800*

Former pharmaceutical representatives will be used to contact local physicians to tell them about Regional Medical Programs and to evaluate their attitudes towards RMP.

3. *Community Hospital Learning Centers: Direct Cost, \$75,800*

This project will establish learning centers at community hospitals using "Self Instruction Units" and audio-visual equipment for rapid dissemination of new medical knowledge. Eventually, the directors of this project hope to evaluate physician progress. Initially, 8 hospitals will be involved.

4. *Community Hospital Coronary Care Training and Demonstration Program: Direct Cost, \$55,400*

This project will establish coronary care units of three beds each at three community hospitals: Pittsfield General, St. Lukes, and Vassar Brothers. These will serve as demonstration and educational projects for other hospitals in the region. A continuing educational program will serve the permanent Unit Staff and staffs from smaller hospitals.

5. *Training and Demonstration Project, Intensive Cardiac Care Unit Herkimer Memorial Hospital: Direct Cost, \$3,500*

The initial phase of this project is to train 6 or 8 nurses from small community hospitals in cardiac anatomy and physiology, coronary disease, the principals and staffing of a cardiac intensive care unit, and in handling the complex equipment. These nurses will also be sent to Albany Medical Center for active training with specialized equipment.

INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAM

The Intermountain Regional Medical Program has essentially three types of projects for remote communities. Several projects are educational involving the training of health professionals who are brought into the medical center. Other projects send specialists from the medical center to the small communities to aid local physicians with specific areas of patient care. A third type involves the use of electronic monitoring equipment which transmits physiological signals from patients in remote areas to the medical center for interpretation. A listing of these projects follows.

Operational Projects

1. *Network for Continuing Education in Heart Disease, Cancer, Stroke and Related Diseases: Direct Cost, \$243,000*

The objectives of this program are to develop a communications network between patient-care and research institutions to encourage liaison between health care personnel in the area. The currently existing 2-way radio systems, including 11 hospitals in 7 communities in or near Salt Lake City, will be extended to remote hospitals to serve as one link. Closed circuit TV and use of KVED (University of Utah education TV) is also planned. This may establish the community hospital as the locus of continuing education.