

NEWS RELEASE

For release: Immediately  
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*Ambulance EKG systems prove their worth*  
*Patient receives intervention within 14 Minutes*

LINCOLN, Neb. — Four months ago, BryanLGH, St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center and Lincoln Fire and Rescue, collaborated together to implement a pre-hospital EKG and digital data system in six Lincoln ambulances. Rich Furasek, assistant fire chief, Lincoln Fire and Rescue, stated in a July 13, 2010 press release, “The greatest benefit will be the valuable time saved. First responders can transmit the diagnostic information to the hospital in transit so treatment preparations are already underway when the patient arrives at the ED.”

Flash forward to November 8, 2010. 47-year old Dennis Schweitzer is being rushed to BryanLGH Medical Center with a severe heart attack. Paramedics Greg Shoemaker and Jason Urkoski perform an EKG in the ambulance and transmit the information to the hospital. It is received by Robert Hibbard, MD, cardiologist, BryanLGH Heart Institute. When the ambulance arrives at the emergency department, Dr. Hibbard is at the front door, ready with a treatment plan. He instructs staff to take Dennis straight to the cath lab. Within 14 minutes, Dennis has his life-saving intervention.

The program was made possible by funding received from many donors, including a grant from the Community Health Endowment, BryanLGH Foundation, BryanLGH Heart Institute, Nebraska Heart Institute, Saint Elizabeth Foundation and Emergency Medical Services, Inc. Additionally, the BryanLGH and Saint Elizabeth Foundations will continue to collect monies to support the new data transmission devices and to fund future updates. If you would like to contribute to the fund, contact the Saint Elizabeth Foundation at 402-219-7074 or BryanLGH Foundation at 402-481-8605.

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