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## The Nebraska Medical Center First in State to Utilize CultureVision

Omaha, Neb. – The Nebraska Medical Center is the first and only hospital in the state to utilize a unique tool in creating a better understanding of different cultures and their perceptions of healthcare. CultureVision is a web-based product that allows users to access a detailed database of more than 35 ethnicities and religions.

“We see CultureVision as an invaluable addition to our overall diversity education efforts,” said Debra Tomek, vice president of human resources at The Nebraska Medical Center. “Our goal is to improve and strengthen diversity and make sure all patients and staff members feel comfortable here.”

Employees have convenient access to CultureVision via most computer terminals in the medical center. The database acts like an encyclopedia, providing a variety of reference categories including cultural background, language and communication, family tradition, gender roles, illness and treatment issues, even perceptions about death and dying.

“Upon closer exploration by our diversity steering committee, we found ourselves looking for ways to respond to changes in the community and growing disparities in healthcare,” said Annette Fideler, manager of staff development and training at The Nebraska Medical Center. “We want everyone who comes to the The Nebraska Medical Center - patients, families and employees - to feel welcome and respected.”

The medical center offers monthly training sessions on CultureVision. Any employee can attend. Fideler says trainers are quick to caution that although very helpful, the information provided is based on patterns of beliefs and general practices in various cultures.

“The most important thing is to treat everyone as an individual. CultureVision is a wonderful resource, but we cannot turn that information into a stereotype about different populations. Individual beliefs can certainly differ and we need to be sensitive to that,” she explained.

*With a reputation for excellence, innovation and extraordinary patient care, The Nebraska Medical Center has earned J.D. Power and Associates' Hospital of Distinction award for two consecutive years. It also received the 2007 Consumer Choice Award, a mark of patient satisfaction as selected by healthcare consumers and has achieved Magnet recognition status for nursing excellence, Thomson 100 Top Hospitals Performance Improvement Leader recognition, as well as the Award of Progress from the state of Nebraska's Edgerton Quality Awards Program. As the teaching hospital for the University of Nebraska Medical Center, this 689 licensed bed academic medical center has an international reputation for providing solid organ and bone marrow transplantation services and is well known nationally and regionally for its oncology, neurology and cardiology programs. The Nebraska Medical Center can be found online at [www.nebraskamed.com](http://www.nebraskamed.com)*