

By Russ Pankonin The Imperial Republican

Chase County Community Hospital announced this week they have contracted with a locum tenes doctor for the next year to provide coverage for the hospital and clinic.

Dr. James Craig of Red Cloud will assist the current medical staff during his one-year stint.

As a locum tenes doctor, Dr. Craig will be available to provide medical services at both the hospital and clinic as well as coverage when the present medical staff is on vacation or out of town.

Having another doctor on staff will help fill the void with the loss of two doctors and a physician's assistant (PA) at the hospital/clinic over the past two years.

Present medical staff includes Dr. Jonathan Richman, Jodi Spady, PA and Nurse Practitioner Brandy Hanes.

"We are pleased to have Dr. Craig working with us to help meet the medical needs of the community," stated Gary Bieganski, interim hospital CEO.

He said they are working with Dr. Craig on scheduling for the coming year. He was here the first week of February and will be providing services for two consecutive weeks in March.

In April, he will be on duty for two weeks, with one week on, one week off and one week back on. Dr. Craig will also be part of the on-call schedule during his time at CCCH.

Recruiting efforts continue

Bieganski said recruitment efforts continue.

He said the hospital has hired one recruitment firm and is considering contracting with another. He said they made an offer to a doctor who chose to locate in the eastern end of the state instead.

He said it was imperative to bring Dr. Craig on board while the recruitment process continues.

Craig a Nebraska native

Dr. Craig was born and raised in Omaha and attended Creighton University for his undergraduate work. He received his medical training at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

He completed an internship in Salt Lake City, Utah followed by residency at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln.

Dr. Craig's medical experience includes 13 years in Montana, three years in Missouri, two years in South Dakota and 16 years in North Dakota. He worked from 2006-2011 in Red Cloud.

Currently, Dr. Craig is associated with the Docs Who Care organization. Docs Who Care is a group of physicians and other health care providers who partner with community hospitals to provide clinic and emergency department staffing, hospital inpatient care and other administrative services.

He also serves as a medical consultant to the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System at Creighton University.

He specializes in NaProTechnology (Natural Procreative Technology) which is a new women's health science that monitors and maintains a woman's reproductive and gynecological health.

Dr. Craig has worked with many different reproductive disorders, infertility and post-menopausal issues. The Creighton Model helps couples make decisions regarding the achievement or avoidance of pregnancy, as well as helping women use this information for the

maintenance of their reproductive health.

Dr. Craig lives outside of Red Cloud with his wife Anne. They have seven children and 22 grandchildren.

For information on appointment availability, call the Chase County Clinic at 882-7299.