

hospitals...

Continued from p.6

The second type of abortion performed at the medical center, between a woman's seventh and twelfth weeks of pregnancy, is a suction abortion—performed only in a hospital. Suction abortions at the medical center cost \$270.

The medical center also performs a saline abortion. The procedure, performed between a woman's fifteenth and twentieth weeks of pregnancy, involves instilling salt water into the patient's uterus. Saline abortions at the medical center cost \$440.

Before performing any type of abortion, the medical center tries to get spousal consent or parental consent if the patient is a minor.

Consent law unclear

"The law dealing with minors and parental consent is not real clear," Adam said, "so we get parental permission

just to protect ourselves and to make sure nothing we do is illegal."

Weston does not seek spousal consent before performing an abortion.

"If it seemed important to the patient for me to talk to her spouse, I certainly would," he said. "But I don't think I would seek him out otherwise." However, parental consent is needed before performing abortions on minors, Weston said.

Of three hospitals in out-state Nebraska, Chadron Community Hospital, St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island and West Nebraska General Hospital in Scottsbluff, two maintain no-abortion policies.

No specific policy

According to Peg Lewis, director of nursing at Chadron Community Hospital, the hospital has no specific abortion

third dimension | abortion

policy and only one abortion has been performed at Chadron Community Hospital in the past six months.

Sister Francis Ann, administrator at St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island, said abortions are not performed in the hospital.

"I think we have the right to refuse abortions on religious grounds," she said.

Refusing elective abortions is the policy of the West Nebraska General Hospital's board of trustees, Duane Kroeger, hospital vice president, said.

"People express opinions on both sides of the issue," Kroeger said. "This is mainly a moral issue of the board of trustees." Referrals of all types from West Nebraska General Hospital go to Cheyenne, Denver or Omaha, he added.

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