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UC, other partners to announce California Telehealth Network's launch Tuesday

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The **University of California** and a coalition of health care organizations, technology companies and government agencies plan to announce on Tuesday the launch of the **California Telehealth Network**, which will use broadband technology to provide telemedicine services to poor Californians in urban and rural areas that don't have full access to traditional medical care.

The new network is intended to help make the Golden State a national leader in using telemedicine and broadband technology, officials said, and will link more than 300 health care facilities and 800 doctors' offices to state and national broadband networks.

The network is funded by more than \$22.5 million from public and private sources, with a large, but unspecified chunk coming from the **Federal Communications Commission's** Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

In mid-April the consortium -- led by the University of California's Office of the President and the **UC Davis** Health System -- **announced it had selected AT&T** to build CTN's medical-grade telecommunications system. It said AT&T's tasks would include establishing new, or upgrading existing telemedicine connections, especially in rural communities throughout the state. The project was then described as a nearly \$30 million project that would increase bandwidth capacity for telecommunications so that clinics, hospitals and other sites would be connected to all network members, plus "a wide range of external networks and services."

For a demonstration of how the new technology works, **go to this link** and click the video in the upper left corner of the screen.

Eric Brown is CTN's executive director. Pilot participants include the University of California, UC Davis, **UC Irvine** and Oroville Hospital, among many others.



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