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## ANTHC hosts first international Telehealth Palliative Care Symposium

Anchorage, AK — The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and international partners are holding the first international Telehealth Palliative Care Symposium — a meeting remarkable because of the:

- Breadth of nations represented
- Creation of a “virtual” forum for discussions about the care of indigenous people with a terminal illness
- Use of cutting-edge technology to bring people together for discussions and support efforts

Palliative care experts, including professionals from Alaska, University of New Zealand, Mayo Clinic, University of New Mexico, University of Arizona, and Lakehead University in Ontario, Canada, will present lectures,

Registrants will join the symposium from webcasting and video teleconferencing sites around the United States, Canada, Australia, American Samoa and New Zealand. The Web site uses open source software, used also by the Obama administration, and social networking infrastructure tools such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Flickr. These all help registrants from around the world connect through different social media venues. One of the goals is to create a “virtual” palliative care community so people and teams can:

- Share the latest information and resources
- Discuss their local palliative care needs
- Type questions to speakers on a conference topic Web page
- Support each other after the conference ends

Speakers will respond to the posted questions. Each site will also upload the results of local discussions about palliative care needs.

The sites will connect for three four-hour sessions during the conference. Web casting has reached its capacity with 100 registrants. More than 300 people have registered for the program, with registration ending May 1. The ANTHC Cancer Planning Program is coordinating the event. Visit [www.palliativeak.org](http://www.palliativeak.org) for a list of partners, the agenda, and additional information.

8 a.m.-noon, May 5-7, 2009.  
Conference rooms 1 and 2  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
4000 Ambassador Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99508