

Rural Healthcare Solutions

Critical solutions for improved care

No industry is unaffected by the current economic downturn. Not even the healthcare sector. As jobless rates climb, more people are uninsured and unable to pay medical expenses. This, combined with rising costs, a shrinking credit market, an aging population and nursing shortage, means healthcare facilities are looking for ways to do more with less. Motorola two-way radios and wireless broadband offer a range of solutions that result in improved efficiencies and therefore, better care.

Source: Modern Healthcare Forecast 2009, ModernHealthcare.com

An overwhelmingly majority (73%) of mobility decision makers and mobile workers (74%) stated that mobility is more important today than it was last year.



Trend toward technology

With tighter budgets and constant concern over medical errors and staff shortages, hospitals and healthcare facilities are tasked now more than ever with finding ways to improve processes and the quality of care. The introduction of technology to address these problems is a growing trend.

Major drivers of healthcare IT investment include improving productivity, reducing inefficiencies and errors, and streamlining operations to improve patient care. The aging population is creating more need for remote healthcare, remote monitoring and diagnostics, and technology for improving healthcare at the home.

Source: Compass Intelligence, May 2008

An overwhelmingly majority (73%) of physicians and nurses (71%) stated that the usage of mobility in clinical settings can aid in the reduction of medical errors.

Source: Motorola, February 2008



Consumers feel there is better interaction among their doctor(s) and nurses (71%) and the number of medical errors is reduced (60%) when mobility is introduced.

Source: Motorola, February 2008

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Top eight technology trends in healthcare:

1. Wireless is becoming more widely adopted in hospitals.
2. Desktop clinical systems are moving from the nurse station to the bedside, or point-of-care.
3. Acceptance of "Smart" infusion pumps improve safety and reduce human intervention.
4. Medical professionals are utilizing IT systems for more pervasive patient monitoring.
5. Technology managers are being included in decision support.
6. IT is being viewed as an area to help with cost containment.
7. Regional health information organizations (RHIO) continue to grow.
8. Bar code scanning is a widely accepted means of reducing human error and improving records management.

The Value of Broadband: Telemedicine

Rural residents often face challenges accessing a full range of healthcare services. Broadband technology is changing that. According to a report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service, "Rural Broadband at a Glance," the value of broadband has both medical and economic implications:

Medical benefits:

- Improving the perception of locally provided healthcare quality
- Offering a larger menu of locally provided medical services
- Treating emergencies more efficiently
- Telehome monitoring can help providers better manage elderly rural residents with chronic conditions, thereby reducing hospitalizations and avoiding early placement in nursing homes or assisted living care facilities

Economic benefits:

- Reducing time off of work due to decreased travel time to access specialist care
- Lowering the cost of travel to receive care
- Increasing revenue from pharmacy and lab work that can be conducted locally
- Reducing costs to health facilities