HARTFORD HOSPITAL

A Message from

Patient Safety Action Group

October 15, 2009
Year 2; No. 41

Voices of Our Patients

To all Reiki Volunteers at Hartford Hospital:

I was praying for a miracle and then you came along. You have shown me the gift you possess by putting me in a state of total relaxation; physically, mentally and spiritually. This allows me to rid my body of the pain I am often in. Your hands radiate warmth and comfort as if they were heating pads drawing out the discomfort I feel; cleansing my body.

Your giving nature and unselfish ways are a blessing to most of those you touch. Your generosity is a sign of a great soul. You are caring people who come to the aid of me and others; a blessing that will last forever. May your thoughtfulness find its way back to you.

My “thank you” seems so small compared to all you’ve done, but it comes from deep within my heart. Sometimes simple words say it best. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will always be grateful to all of you.

Lovingly,
Sharline Jack
Cancer Center patient

Reprinted with permission from Ms. Sharline Jack.

Hartford Hospital Tests an “Equipment Location” Product called AeroScout.

Biomedical Engineering, in cooperation with Information Services’ wireless networking group, has launched a product trial for RFID (Radio Frequency Identification). The RFID product under test is capable of locating roving equipment within the hospital to room level accuracy. The concept uses the available wiring infrastructure combined with our wireless access points (Wifi), the same access points that we presently use to communicate wirelessly to the hospital network from mobile computers on wheels. The equipment selected for tracking are banded with RFID tags and distributed back to monitored space for real time tracking using a web based application much like Google Maps. See Figure 1.

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The AeroScout product line is of particular interest because the tags are capable of much more than real time location of assets. T2 RFID tags can support temperature monitoring applications by simply placing the tag inside a refrigerator or freezer. A temperature tag is electronically associated to the device it is assigned to monitor and can report the measured temperature wirelessly. As with the asset tracking application, temperature

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Life Safety

Computers on Wheels

Q. How long can computers on wheels be in corridors? Are they allowed to charge in the corridors?

A. Computers on wheels and other wheeled carts may be in the corridors, provided that they are “in use” and addressed in a fire plan (for example, moved from the corridor in an emergency situation). “In use” refers to anything in the corridors that is idle for less than 30 minutes. Crash carts and isolation carts (when associated with a patient) are considered to be in use at all times. Computers on wheels are allowed to charge in the corridors while in use and may be stored in alcoves, provided that the corridor width is not compromised at any time. Keep in mind that the batteries in the computers on wheels are to be the sealed lead-acid type of either absorbed glass mat design or sealed case. Finally, battery systems (Li-ion or Li-ion polymer) are to utilize a smart charging system with overcharge and shorted cell protection.

HH is testing an RTAL ... continued

and humidity monitored devices appear graphically along with their respective temperature on a floor map. Measured temperatures outside the allowable temperature range trigger alarms by comparing measured values sent every few minutes to the monitoring application. Out of range temperatures are flagged and can automatically report the alarm conditions using a variety of alerts methods including e-mails, voice messages, pages aimed at designate first responders.

Scope of the RFID trials include:
1. Temperature application using 6 tags to monitor freezers incubators and refrigerators on the west side of 3rd floor lab in Bliss wing.
2. Asset tracking 6 Life Sync patient cardiac monitors High Building 10 North simultaneous with tracking 6 carts at MidState Medical Center in Meriden.
3. Asset tracking 11 PACS Carts through out the Operating Room, Core Building, High Building and Bliss Wing.
4. Asset tracking 12 Dual Chamber Pace Makers Operating Room Core High Building and Bliss Wing.

Biomedical Engineering is continually striving to improve patient care while maximizing efficiency. The AeroScout application or one like it can automate and streamline location of critical need equipment, monitor temperature, operate as a emergency call, locate patients, announce bed ready, stop loss - theft, stop loss - laundry shoots, monitor humidity, safeguard electrical closets, monitor process flow, monitor mobile food distribution, record and archive all the above measured values for all regulating agencies.

Service Excellence Highlight of the Week

When answering the phone, state your name, location and ask, “How may I help you?”.

This personal touch lets our customers know we’re here to help.

We want to hear from you. Just hit “reply” and write your thoughts. If you do not have access to e-mail, you can send your comments or suggestions via the inter-hospital mail. Address the envelope to the Patient Safety Action Group. (Please include your name and department if you would like a response from PSAG.) Useful ideas win awards!