

# CONVERGENT

TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

## Healthcare facilities and providers use technology to connect patients, caregivers and administration

Today more than ever, healthcare facilities and providers—influenced heavily by the federal government—recognize the need to streamline non-patient care tasks, such as scheduling, communication, coordinating, supervising, and documenting care in order to improve quality of care. Automatic data collection, wireless technologies and virtual private networks are critical to the success of the National Health Information Network (NHIN), Electronic Health Records (EHRs) and Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) initiatives.

Following are examples of how healthcare facilities and administration are using communications technologies to solve real patient-care and administrative challenges.

- **Intrusion Detection.** Most healthcare facilities need to comply with the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996) Security Rule. Wireless video cameras provide real-time images and audio that can be monitored on-site or remotely over the Internet. Since the cameras are wireless, they can be easily moved within the facility by staff.
- **Wireless technology to track the administration of medication** has been demonstrated to drastically reduce medication error rates. Access to patient records, lab results, and verification of medication disbursement can be monitored and verified using mobile devices such as laptops or pen-based devices that have a radio card incorporated.

Administering medication via a wireless medication pump controlled remotely by the nursing staff can ensure the four R's are being adhered to: right patient, right medication, right dosage, right time. Additional benefits to wireless networking are having access to email and Internet while on the move.

- **Critical medical situations.** When a doctor or nurse is needed a VOIP (Voice over IP) phone may be used. With a wireless network, a doctor or nurse can be reached immediately from anywhere within the facility, or even outside the

wireless coverage area. Wireless systems can connect to the existing PBX wired phone system and provide many useful features. Using overhead paging or electronic pagers, parties will actually be able to communicate without having to make an additional phone call. Sometimes this can be critical under emergency situations.

- **Track staff, patients, doctors, medications and expensive medical equipment** using bar coding or Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). Both technologies send information over your wireless network to automatically locate an object, collect data about them, and enter that data directly into your computer systems without human involvement. Following are a sample of the many uses of bar coding and RFID to improve patient care and productivity.

- a. **Quickly locate staff, doctors and patients.** Bar codes or high-frequency RFID tags are widely used in identification badges. Personnel can be quickly and easily located improving patient care and staff productivity.
- b. **Quickly locate medical equipment** (blood pressure machines, pumps, etc.) - improving patient care and staff productivity. Reduce theft by tracking the location of expensive medical devices such as mobile x-ray machines, laptops, etc.
- c. **Track the movement and location of medications.**
- d. **Talking Prescriptions** - RFID tags are being placed on prescriptions. For Visually Impaired Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient pharmacies are now supplying RFID tags with label information stored inside that can be read by a battery powered, talking prescription reader. This reader speaks information such as: Drug Name; Instruction; Warnings; etc.

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Convergent Technologies, Inc. is your single source for thoughtfully-integrated healthcare communications technology. Our converged wireless, voice and data solutions provide unique, industry-specific answers to many common healthcare issues.

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Headquartered in North Carolina, Convergent Technologies, Inc. is an experienced communications technology company skilled at integrating wireless, Internet, traditional & voice over IP telephone systems and data networks for healthcare facilities and physicians.

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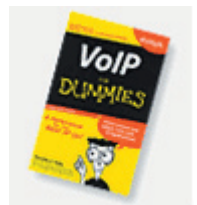
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