Hill-Rom Offers Real-Time Products and Solutions To Optimize Hospital Efficiency, Communication and Patient Flow

Vision is Real-Time Connectivity of the Health Care Environment

Batesville, Ind. (Feb. 14, 2005) Hill-Rom, a leading global provider of solutions for the patient-care environment, introduced two new products today that help provide real-time connectivity of health care products and solutions, optimizing staff efficiency, communication and patient flow.

The new version of the Hill-Rom’s COMLinx® Nurse Communication Module provides integrated care and operational alerts using real-time data from Hill-Rom beds, and offers the option of immediately delivering those alerts via multiple wireless communication systems. COMLinx® NCM has also been integrated with the Vocera® Communication System, helping to optimize real-time nursing staff and patient interaction. This feature has the potential to increase staff productivity well beyond conventional nurse communications systems.

Hill-Rom is also introducing a new version of the NaviCare® Patient Flow System that provides the ability to send and receive system information and tasks via Vocera® badges and enables real-time coordination of bed management, housekeeping and transport activities. Caregivers in hospitals equipped with Wi-Fi networks will be able to communicate with the NaviCare® system via wearable badges, inputting data and receiving real-time messages and alerts while on the go. This helps improve patient flow, efficiency and staff communications, while reducing the time spent away from the patient.

These product releases signify important steps towards Hill-Rom’s goal of optimizing resource utilization and improving efficiency in the care environment by integrating real-time connections between products and solutions and delivering actionable information to the right people at the right time. This helps hospital staff care for patients more safely, efficiently and effectively.

Hill-Rom is in the process of interconnecting its portfolio of communication and patient flow solutions, along with its intelligent bed and therapy surface products, so they can share information among themselves and with other hospital products and systems. Connecting equipment, systems and solutions together in an intelligent, scalable open architecture will help optimize a hospital's efficiency and resource utilization.

“Providing instant information and communication is essential in today's fast-paced health care environment, where busy caregivers frequently make important decisions in seconds while scrambling to complete their daily tasks,” said Ernest Waaser, Hill-Rom's president and CEO. “Hill-Rom is committed to offering solutions that help caregivers do their jobs more efficiently so they can spend more time providing quality patient care.”

COMLinx® Nurse Communication Module 3.4 is a powerful communications network that provides instant, hands-free communication among caregivers, patients, dispatchers, and staff. This new release allows staff to configure alerts aimed at reducing patient falls and other patient safety and bed management alerts based on real-time bed status information. Those alerts can be sent directly to the caregiver or unit secretary, helping to improve efficiency and bring peace of mind to the care process.

In addition, NCM 3.4 enables improved efficiency and patient flow by automatically alerting admissions and housekeeping of room status. Integration with Vocera® and other wireless communications systems enables notifications and alerts to be delivered to mobile caregivers and staff with less wasted time and effort.

The NaviCare® Patient Flow System is the industry’s first complete, integrated enterprise system designed to manage and improve the real-time flow of patients, staff, and other resources, while improving capacity utilization. The NaviCare® system creates a continuous, real-time picture of capacity and patient flow, and instantly becomes the "central nervous system" within the health care facility. Also, the NaviCare® Care Traf

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