

Healthcare IT News

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Washington hospital gets a grip on equipment

By *Bernie Monegain, Editor* | 11/08/07 |

CENTRALIA, WA – Providence Health & Services is set to deploy real-time tracking technology to help hospital staff find and manage critical equipment.

The intent, say hospital officials, is to save time and money.

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“Eliminating the time and resources associated with searching for and managing assets, whether they are IT equipment, medical devices or even patients and caregivers, will reduce costs and improve operational efficiency,” said Jody Albright, Western Washington CIO at Providence Health.

Providence Health, with 27 hospitals and 46,000 employees in Alaska, Washington, Montana, Oregon and California, will implement the new system first in its Centralia, Wash. facility.

Systems integrator World Wide Technology, Inc. will team up with AeroScout, Inc. , a provider of Wi-Fi-based active RFID technology.

The AeroScout deployment will utilize Providence’s existing IT infrastructure and network investments, including its medical grade wireless network designed by Motion Computing and powered by Cisco Systems. The wireless asset tracking and location technology uses active RFID technology to improve equipment management and utilization, increase safety and patient throughput.

It also provides data for analysis and reporting to improve regulatory compliance and reduce expenses.

The first phase of the Centralia project will track networked devices, such as laptops and tablets with potential future phases addressing medical equipment, patients and staff while also incorporating passive RFID components for greater inventory control capabilities.

AeroScout’s healthcare solutions include a suite of hardware and software products for tracking location and status in real-time over standards-based networks, and using this information to drive business processes.