

### Remote Monitoring Projected To Grow By 77 Percent Over Five Years

Remote patient monitoring devices aim to be one of the fastest growing areas of health care technology, according to a new study examining wireless health care and fitness market data.

ABI Research, Oyster Bay, N.Y., found that between now and 2014, the market for wireless devices that monitor a patient's health and then transmit it to a health care facility will grow by 77 percent and can have a global revenue of \$950 million.

The data research looked at markets in remote patient monitoring, telehealth, and telepresence.

It also includes data about what have been called "body area networks" or sensors attached to patients that transmit information on vital signs.

"Hospitals and other health care providers are being economically squeezed," says ABI Research Vice President Stan Schatt. "Wireless patient monitoring has a huge potential to do that, for both in- and out-patients. It's a lot more economical to monitor patients remotely at home than to have them come in personally for checkups that consume time and resources."

ABI found that a growing amount of type and variety of sensors already exists, including a prototype digestible radio that can confirm whether or not a patient has taken a pill.

But Schatt says that adding wireless communication options to monitoring devices adds to their costs, and any future savings the devices can provide require "present investment."

"In the future we will see entire cellular networks designed as managed services for handling these machine-to-machine communications," Schatt says. "The whole process will be outsourced, and software will monitor the incoming measurements. Medical staff will be alerted when the data indicate their intervention is needed."

—Suzanne Struglinski

#### CORRECTIONS:

■ Genesis HealthCare, Kennett Square, Pa., was inadvertently omitted from the 2009 list of the Top 40 Assisted Living Chains. With an assisted living occupant capacity of 2,943, Genesis should have been placed at number 13 on the list, published in the June 2009 issue.

■ A September article on page 16 about the Nurse Executive Council's work on the development of an influenza campaign included an incorrect e-mail address for requesting a free toolkit. The correct e-mail is maude@babington-consulting.com.

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