

Med-ic® AND WIRELESS INTERCONNECTIVITY

With aging population demographics combined with spiralling health-care costs, cost-reducing measures are the order of the day. Many involve systems that combine existing strategies in novel ways to give cost savings. The key to such systems is wireless interconnectivity – the ability of the various elements to intercommunicate in real-time without physical connections.

Consider home care. This is widely acknowledged as being effective in reducing hospitalizations and physician visits with resultant healthcare savings. In its simplest case a nurse makes a weekly home visit to monitor a patient's progress. He might check on the patient's medication, take her blood pressure, and review her compliance with a diabetic protocol. Of course a wireless system might do all this and more while requiring less nursing time.

2-way video link, panic alarm, ambulatory blood pressure, glucose and weight monitoring, EKG and pacemaker monitoring, and teleconference interviews with health practitioners are just a few examples of elements that can form part of a home care system. Abnormal readings would trigger a come visit, but this might occur every few months as opposed to weekly.

The home system reports to the central monitoring CPU via Wi-Fi and internet or cellular phone network (GSM). The monitoring CPU is updated in real-time and even the central monitoring function can be automated. The individual devices in the home feed their data to the modem or cell phone via Bluetooth. Many such systems are being developed, integrated with other systems and deployed. The element they all lack is the ability to monitor the patients' use of medication.

A major factor in the ageing demographic is that people are living longer due to the development of medications that reduce morbidity and mortality. On the flip side, as the population ages more and more people will be dependent on medication and multiple medications. Compound this with the fact that the elderly are known to have difficulty with compliance, and that this would be concentrated in the high risk populations that are candidates for home care.



The Med-ic[®] compliance monitoring function can provide this critical missing element to the home care system. Integrated with a standard multi-tablet dosette, Med-ic communicates patient compliance data to the system via its wireless RFID Reader or any NFC-enabled smart device, giving real-time early warning about impending problems.

The key to this flexibility is Med-ic's ability to integrate with any home care system using its wireless functionality – RFID (radio-frequency identification), NFC (Near Field Communication) and Bluetooth LE.