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**Care Delivery**  forward  print**New York Hospitals Turn to Wireless Systems**

January 14, 2004

Several New York hospitals are beginning to use wireless systems to support clinical applications, the *Long Island Business News* reports. Residents at [Long Island Jewish Medical Center](#) use handheld computers to guide them during check-ups and enter patient information into the hospital database.

The medical center plans to expand the technology to [North Shore University Hospital](#) in Manhasset, N.Y., said Dr. Stephen Kamholz, chairman of the department of medicine at North Shore and LIJ, both part of the [North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System](#). [Stony Brook University Hospital](#) in Long Island also uses a wireless system.

New York insurer [Group Health](#) recently began an electronic prescription pilot program in Staten Island to provide nearly 100 doctors with personal digital assistants to write prescriptions wirelessly. Group Health hopes physicians will pay for the PDAs once they see the advantages of the system.

With wireless systems, providers can do "mobile rounds," quickly access updated patient information and cut home care costs by monitoring several patients instead of visiting each one separately, the *Long Island Business News* reports. At least one-third of hospitals have a wireless local area network, although these networks may be small and used for various purposes.

Widespread adoption of wireless technology in health care still faces barriers, such as problems integrating the systems with legacy networks and the need to meet the HIPAA patient privacy regulations, according to Gregg Malkary, managing director of [Spyglass Consulting](#) (*Long Island Business News*, 1/9). A Spyglass survey last year found that 92 of 100 clinicians said they are affiliated with organizations that use outdated legacy computer systems and paper-based processes. The survey also found that nine out of 10 hospitals lack the necessary wireless infrastructure for mobile applications in acute care settings ([iHealthBeat](#), 11/10/2003).

However, the demand for software to help comply with HIPAA is a factor driving wireless investment, the *Long Island Business News* reports (*Long Island Business News*, 1/9).

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