



Dallas, TX – December 6, 2011

South Jersey Healthcare Deploys New Network to Become a Connected Hospital

Enabled by Alcatel-Lucent's Connected Hospital Program, the healthcare organization is able to provide more efficient and comprehensive patient care

South Jersey Healthcare (SJH) is deploying a state-of-the-art communications network based on Alcatel-Lucent solutions. The new network is transforming the healthcare organization into a [Connected Hospital](#), enabling staff to focus on clinical applications and exceptional patient care, while pursuing advanced HIMSS certifications.

Center for Connected Medicine

SJH is a non-profit health organization incorporating South Jersey Regional Hospital and Elmer Hospital as well as three sub-acute care facilities, 22 ambulatory care facilities and home healthcare services. A long time Alcatel-Lucent customer, SJH was inspired to upgrade their network after a visit to the [Center for Connected Medicine](#), which is dedicated to transforming the practice of medicine through innovative and integrative technology. The Center was founded in 2009 by Alcatel-Lucent, UPMC, IBM and Verizon, and to date has hosted 8,000 visitors from 35 countries to highlight the benefits of a connected healthcare organization.

Benefits of the new network

Alcatel-Lucent is providing SJH with a full-scale wired and wireless networking infrastructure, hardware, software and services, which include platform architecture and design support, program management, technical consultation, support and training for South Jersey resident engineers.

This new interactive network streamlines communication between people and devices, allowing hospital staff to focus on delivering exceptional patient care, while helping rein in rising costs. SJH is also able to move to becoming a paperless facility, allow care providers and visitors alike to benefit from mobile, always-on connectivity in a secure, reliable environment. This network will support applications that will assist in providing outstanding care to patients, for example the wireless delivery of nurse calls to mobile handsets carried by nurses.

SJH in partnership with Alcatel-Lucent will be able to:

- Install multimedia terminals in room enabling patients to make phone calls, access the Internet, watch videos on demand or access hospital information.

- Deploy tags for carts, stretchers and critical medical devices that can identify their location, allowing staff to spend less time tracking equipment and monitoring usage

One of the challenges of health organization, such as SJH, is meeting federal "Meaningful Use" guidelines, whereby providers need to show they're using certified EHR technology in ways that can be measured significantly in quality and in quantity. In addition, these types of organizations need to accommodate the Medicare billing system and meet the needs of the many insurance companies its patients use. The Alcatel-Lucent solution helps SJH meet those requirements with a high-capacity reliable network that provides links between the care provider and the billing system.

Tom Pacek, VP IT/CIO,
South Jersey
Healthcare

"The time we spent at the Center for Connected Medicine made us realize that we needed to transform our facilities into connected organizations – much to the satisfaction of our doctors, 120,000 patients and staff – and we have Alcatel-Lucent to thank for that. Alcatel-Lucent's Connected Hospital Program is helping maximize our IT department's capacity, focusing on supporting internal clinical customers with applications and tools to improve patient care. My IT team can direct Alcatel-Lucent's engineers to build the network our clinical clients demand."

Jim White, vice
president, Connected
Hospital, Alcatel-Lucent
Enterprise

"Be it a large medical facility or small community hospital – we are providing our customers access to innovative technology that's helping to enhance patient care," said Jim White, Connected Hospital, Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise." We performed a Rapid Business Assessment for South Jersey Healthcare to list the needs of its end users and provide a multi-year strategic roadmap to help them achieve their immediate and future goals. Our partnership doesn't end at implementation. Through the end of our contract, we will provide program-management support, technical consultation and connected hospital training."

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