TelePresence Demonstration

Technology Convergence to Serve America’s Veterans

Spring 2009 Internet2 Member Meeting  
April 27-29, 2009
VA Challenges

- 40% of Veteran Health Administration (VHA) 5.5 million patients live in rural or highly rural areas (2007)
- The VHA conducts more than 400,000 consultations annually via telemedicine (2007)
- Need to view a consolidated Electronic Health Record (EHR)
- Specialized care not local to the Veteran
Today’s Demonstrations

- The demonstration is an example of the VA’s continuing efforts to utilize today’s technology for the extension of medical care and expertise to the remote patient.
- It will portray a role-playing illustration of a remote psychiatric consultation of a veteran diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
  - The Psychiatrist is Dr. Joseph Erdos
    - A practicing Psychiatrist and CIO for the VA Connecticut Healthcare System
    - One of VHA’s pioneers in telemedicine
  - Role-playing the patient is Mr. Michael Raffanello
    - ISO for the VA Connecticut Healthcare System and a retired Navy Master Chief
Benefit to the Veteran

• A Complete Electronic Health Record (EHR)
  – Assures immediate access to the total record for the remote physician or consulting specialist
  – Protection of patient privacy and information integrity

• Extending the Point of Specialist Care to the patient’s locality
  – Speeds the diagnosis and provision of care
  – Reduces patient suffering with earlier treatment
  – Reduces costs for patient, doctor and consulting specialist
    (out of pocket for travel/time/missed work and service delivery costs)

• Improved Access to Critical and Specialized Services
• Improvements in the Care Experience
  – Enhanced communications
  – Quicker care and follow-up
  – Faster resolutions of issues
The Technology

• **High Definition TelePresence**
  – The Cisco TelePresence System 1000
  – 1080p Native Resolution
  – The Remote Location is the Cisco TelePresence facility at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts

• **Broadband Telecommunications to Support TelePresence**
  – An Internet2 GigE Circuit Connecting the Harvard facility and the local, on-stage system

• **Consolidated Medical Records retrieved from a Health Information Exchange (HIE)**
  – The NHIN Connect Wounded Warrior Medical Records retrieved from the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA to the on-stage workstation for display