Telepresence Demonstration

Technology Convergence to Serve America’s Veterans
• 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 is a role-playing illustration of a remote psychiatric consultation of a veteran diagnosed with depression and alcohol abuse.
  – 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 Video Conferencing**
  – The Cisco Telepresence System 1000 using H.323 HD Video Conferencing
  – 1080p Native Resolution using H.264 @ 9-12Mbps
  – The Remote Location is the Cisco Telepresence facility at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts

• **Broadband Telecommunications to Support HD Video Conferencing**
  – 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 NHIN Demonstration System to the on-stage workstation for display