





TelePresence Demonstration

Technology Convergence to Serve America's Veterans



Spring 2009 Internet2 Member Meeting



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, onstage 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









