



Press Information

April 7, 2008

Philips customer, Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center, reports significant reduction in hospitalizations and ER visits with ongoing Telehealth Network program

Director of telehealth program at North Carolina based community health center reports a 71% decrease in hospitalizations and 69% reductions in emergency room visits after home telehealth use by chronic patients.

Seattle, WA— Philips customer, Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center of Ahoskie, N.C., presents impressive results about their telehealth program at the 2008 annual meeting of the American Telemedicine Association. Citing data from their ongoing Patient Provider Community Telehealth Network, Director Bonnie Britton reports hospitalizations and ER visits both declined nearly 70% and total hospital charges decreased 88% in the months immediately following patients' use of home telehealth, as compared to before the trial.

After receiving a standing ovation for presenting 6-month results at the 2008 HIMSS conference, Bonnie Britton, MSN, RN, CNO, grants management director for Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center (RCCHC), presents updated data at the ATA meeting in Seattle, WA April 6-8th.

Eighteen months into the in-home telemonitoring program, RCCHC continues to achieve significant reductions in hospital utilization for patients both during and after participation in their telehealth program. Even more striking is that the targeted patient population is impoverished, remotely located, and uneducated about nutrition and obesity. "Our goal was to see whether home telehealth systems could cost-effectively extend the reach of rural healthcare workers," said Britton.

The team at RCCHC tracked hospitalizations and ER visits and compared data for 6 months prior to telemonitoring, during the program, and for another 6 months after telehealth monitors were removed from the patients' homes. "When patients know someone is watching them, they are not as worried that a chest pain or low blood sugar moment might be life-threatening."

This sense of protection led to savings for the local hospital system. "Total hospital charges were reduced 81% from the control period compared to the monitoring period, and even more significant, decreased 88% from the control months to the six months after monitors were removed," said Britton.

RCCHC received new grant money to expand its current Patient Provider Community Telehealth Network to citizens of Gates County, NC from the Obici Healthcare Foundation in October 2007. RCCHC selected Philips Telehealth Solutions as their technology provider for this expansion. "We chose Philips for the flexibility and ease of use of its customizable software for disease management and the convenience of the wireless peripheral devices for our patients, as well as the robust support from the program consultants," said Britton.

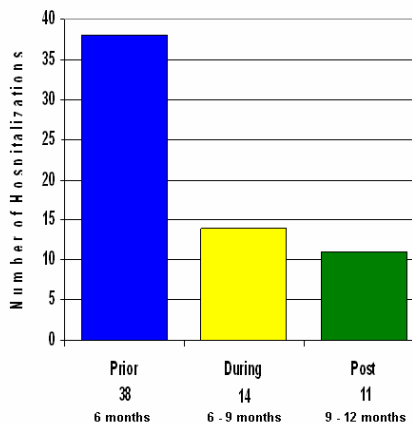
Hospitalizations

n = 40 In-home patients

Telehealth patient hospitalizations decreased 63% from 6 months prior to telehealth to during telehealth. Patient hospitalizations decreased 71% from prior to telehealth to post telehealth.

Hospitalizations

Prior to Telehealth: 38 (216 days total)
During Telehealth: 14 (54 days total)
Post to Telehealth: 11 (42 days total)



Analyzed charges are related to diseases being monitored.

RCCHC / PPCTN Cost Data Ending December 2007



For more information about Bonnie Britton’s presentation at the HIMSS conference, please see the March 12, 2008 issue of Home Care Automation Report: www.homecareautomationreport.com/article.php?id=632.

About Royal Philips Electronics

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About Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center

Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center is a not-for-profit organization, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, committed to providing quality service and comprehensive healthcare – regardless of the ability to pay – to meet the needs of the rural community, including the uninsured. RCCHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center and an associate member of the NC Community Health Center Association. The Center includes Murfreesboro Primary Care, Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center-Ahoskie and Colerain Primary Care.