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**August 24, 2010**

#### Medical device sector has the jobs, but pharmaceuticals is where the hiring is

More jobs are available in the medical device and supply sector worldwide than within other healthcare-related sectors, according to a report by medical industry consulting firm ZRG Partners in Westborough, Mass. The company's first Global Life Science Hiring Index indicates that during the second quarter of 2010, 46 percent of available healthcare jobs were at medical device companies, followed by those in life sciences and pharmaceuticals, with 37 percent. However, in terms of actual hiring, job-seekers were twice as likely to be hired in the life sciences sectors as in medical supply, according to the Index. In general, more than half of all jobs (56 percent) come from North America, followed by Europe, the Middle East and Africa (27 percent), and Asia Pacific/Japan and Australia (17 percent). [Full Story](#)

#### Recorded phone calls, Web surveys reduce cancer patients' pain and depression

Telephone-based care—even that which does not involve a live nurse or physician—can more efficiently ease the pain and depression of cancer patients compared to those who receive in-person only care, according to a study by researchers at Indiana University in Indianapolis. Such a finding is surprising, as most of the year-long treatment consisted of voice-recorded calls or Internet surveys and not conversations with live nurses, according to IU Prof. of Medicine Dr. Kurt Kroenke, the study's lead author. Telephone care is also convenient for the patient: phone calls can be scheduled for a time and place of their choice, and may even encourage them to speak more freely because the doctor is not physically in the room, according to Dr. Cynthia Lee Dennis, an associate professor of nursing at the University of Toronto. The study appears in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. [Full Story](#)

#### Telemedicine eye care project strives to prevent blindness in Armenian infants

U.S. doctors involved in an international eye disease treatment project are using telemedicine to prevent blindness in Armenian children. Through the Armenian Eye Care Project (AECP), American physicians provide in-person and long-distance advice to their Armenian counterparts as they treat premature infants suffering from retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). ROP causes abnormal blood vessels to grow and spread throughout the retina; about 20 percent to 40 percent of those afflicted become legally blind. Thus far, doctors have used two AECP-supplied RetCams—advanced imaging devices that can scan the retinas of premature infants—to examine more than 50 infants, including five with ROP. In conjunction with The Vision Center at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, the systems will be used to train 8 to 10 Armenian physicians every six months. AECP will fund the program for the next two years, after which it will transfer to the Armenian Ministry of Health. [Full Story](#)

#### Electronic health record services could also apply to illegal aliens

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plans to implement an electronic health record (EHR) system to improve healthcare services to a growing number of undocumented or "illegal" immigrants and foreign fugitives under custody of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. According to a notice on the DHS Web site at [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov), the system would be used for scheduling, screening of detainees, physician exams, professional credentialing and exchange of medical information with other detention facilities. As with private EHR systems, the DHS model must meet "meaningful use" requirements and be interoperable with other computer systems at DHS. The department will consider government or commercially developed systems, or use of a hosted service. [Full Story](#) [Further Information](#)

#### Federal government starts crackdown on illegal online pharmacies

Federal officials have begun cracking down on online pharmacies that illegally provide prescriptions. According to a report by CNN, a pharmacy in Illinois and a pharmacy in Utah are part of a multi-million-dollar national online ring of 200 Web pharmacies that are allegedly delivering mostly addictive medications without asking customers for valid prescriptions. From 2008 to April 2010, federal agents ordered prescription medications from numerous involved Web sites and received the drugs within two days. Such activities could result in up to \$500,000 in transactions per month, John Horton, a former official in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, estimates. Horton told CNN that the Department of Justice was attempting a new line of legal reasoning to clamp down on online pharmacies. [Full Story](#)

#### Virtual colonoscopy can also detect other forms of cancer

Long known for its ability to detect colon cancer, the computed tomography colonography (CTC), or virtual colonoscopy, is also extremely effective at finding cancers elsewhere in the body, according to a study by researchers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. In the study, involving almost 2,300 CTC patients, nearly half were found to have "suspicious" lesions outside the colon. About 240 of the lesions were considered "medically significant," such as being some form of cancer. A virtual colonoscopy allows for an examination of the entire abdomen and pelvis, unlike traditional colonoscopy, which is limited to the interior of the colon and rectum. A CTC is, however, more expensive than basic surgery, leading many physicians to dismiss the concept. But the ability to identify other types of cancer may make the extra cost worth it, the authors note. The study



appears in the *American Journal of Roentgenology*. [Full Story](#)

#### **Basic EHRs can increase, not shorten, patient wait times in emergency rooms**

Electronic health records (EHRs) won't get patients out of the emergency room any faster unless the hospital paid to implement the most advanced EHR system, according to a study by the W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University in Tempe. The good news: hospitals that used a superior product saw superior results, with 22 percent shorter patient stays in the ER and 13 percent faster treatment times. On the other hand, patients in ERs with basic EHR systems had 47 percent longer waiting times than even those using minimal systems or no EHR at all. Of the 364 U.S. hospital ERs reviewed in the study, less than two percent used "fully functional" systems, according to study author Michael Furukawa. The findings make an important statement as hospitals implement EHRs to qualify for federal incentives beginning in 2012. "Partial electronic medical records are not optimal," Furukawa said. "Don't expect to go halfway to achieve the same efficiency and benefits." [Full Story](#)

#### **Broadband providers, emergency responders awarded \$407 million in federal funds**

Four satellite-based broadband providers and emergency responders will share more than \$407 million in new grants awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The recipient projects—the first to involve satellite providers—are designed to improve broadband connections among hospitals, healthcare providers and emergency responders in underserved communities, according to Jared Bernstein, chief economist to Vice President Joe Biden. Grant recipients include the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (\$102 million), the state of Mississippi (\$70.1 million), Motorola (\$50.6 million), and the New Jersey Department of Treasury (\$39.6 million). The awards from the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration were part of \$1.8 billion given to 94 projects covering 37 states under ARRA. A complete list of grant recipients can be found at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov). [Full Story](#) [Further Information](#)

#### **Iowa Board of Medicine studying use of telemedicine in abortion clinics**

Abortion-rights opponents have asked the Iowa Board of Medicine to stop Planned Parenthood's use of a remote-controlled system to dispense abortion pills in Iowa clinics. The groups contend the system violates an Iowa law requiring that all abortions be performed by a physician. The procedure allows a physician in Des Moines to interact via computer with patients who are seeking abortions at one of 15 rural Iowa Planned Parenthood clinics. The pills are only available to women who are less than 10 weeks pregnant, and their initial use is doctor-supervised. More than 1,500 patients have used the system since its introduction in 2008. Abortion foes consider the system an inappropriate use of telemedicine; Planned Parenthood officials say the program meets all existing legal requirements. According to Iowa Board of Medicine Chairperson Dr. Siroos Shirazi, the board will research rules and laws that apply to telemedicine prior to the board's meeting in October. [Full Story](#)

#### **Implementation of EHRs becomes 'infectious' among hospitals and med centers**

If one hospital or medical center installs an electronic health record system, neighboring facilities are likely to follow, according to a study by researchers at the University of Notre Dame, University of Maryland and Michigan State University. The study, involving 30 years of records from 3,989 U.S. hospitals in the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Analytics database, found that hospitals have a "mutual influence" on each other for information technology adoption. In general, the larger or more well-known a hospital is, the more "infectious" its influence on other medical centers toward adopting new technology. Population density also plays a role, with hospitals in less-populated areas more likely to pursue new health IT because of increased competition for job talent. The study appears in the August issue of *Management Science*. [Full Story](#)

### **Movers & SHAKERS**

**Jim Mears**, vice president of Motorola mobile solutions, announced the American Red Cross had selected Motorola's MC55 Enterprise Digital Assistant and WLAN access points to help document blood donations...**Michael Nusimow**, CEO and co-founder of DrChrono.com, announced the latest version of the company's iPad EMR platform, which also offers e-prescribing...**Peter Boonen**, managing director of Stirling Products (Australia), announced it is launching a series of TeleMedCare machines in U.K. pharmacy chain Boots for a two-month test period...**Dan DiPlacido**, formerly director of operations for Navigant Consulting, has been named COO of Think First...**Kim Wagner**, CIO of Shared Health, announced they have contracted with Mississippi's Medicaid program to create an electronic prescription system and electronic health record system for the state's Medicaid beneficiaries...**Bill Welch**, president and CEO of the Nevada Hospital Association, announced they and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe had won a \$26.7 million federal grant to build and operate a statewide telemedicine network...**Ronald S. Weinstein**, founding director of the Arizona Telemedicine Program and professor of pathology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, has received the Eliphalet Nott Medal from Union College, Schenectady, N.Y....[Please send us](#) your news on Movers and Shakers in the field.

### **Upcoming EVENTS**

- **ATA Mid-Year Meeting**  
*September 26-28, 2010 - Baltimore, MD*  
[More Info](#)
- **The Forum 10**  
*October 13-15, 2010 - Washington, D.C.*  
[More Info](#)
- **2010 Connected Health Symposium**  
*October 21-22, 2010 - Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers*  
[More Info](#)
- **Global TeleHealth 2010**  
*November 10-12, 2010 - Perth, Western Australia*  
[More Info](#)
- **Med-e-Tel 2011**  
*April 6-8, 2011- Luxembourg, G.D. of Luxembourg*

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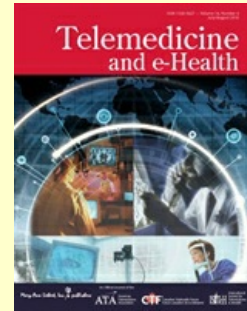
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