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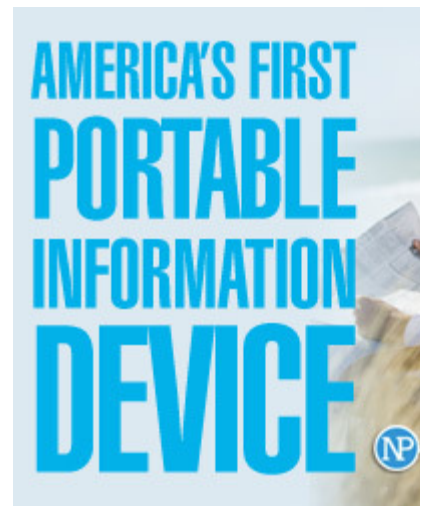
'Remote presence robot' doctor roaming halls at Memorial

By JESSICA COOLEY
The Lufkin Daily News

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Though not on two legs, a new doctor will be roaming the halls of Memorial Health System of East Texas this summer saving precious time in the treatment and diagnosis of stroke victims.

Cruising around on four wheels at 5-foot-2-inches, 260 pounds, "RP-7" is a wireless "remote presence robot" allowing a physician to be in two places at once. MHSET's RP-7 is one of only 250 worldwide.



Jessica Cooley/The Lufkin Daily News
(ENLARGE)

Memorial Health Systems of East Texas (MHSET) staff members (from left to right) Frieda Tamplin, RN, Dora Barron, social worker and Cassandra Jones RN, BSN go over a mock patient consultation with Maria Gonzales, InTouch Health account manager via RP-7, a 'remote presence robot.' The InTouch Health creation allows a physician to be in two places at once. MHSET's RP-7 is one of only 250 worldwide.

Through a partnership with MHSET, doctors from the Methodist Ho Houston will have the capability of "beaming" into the Lufkin hospit: quicker more complete care, according to its creator, InTouch Heal Health describes the technology as "the ability to project yourself to location and to move, see, hear and talk as though you were actua remote presence robotic system is comprised of one or more "Con: RP-7 can move untethered, allowing the physician to freely interact family members and hospital staff from anywhere, anytime.

"This technology will bring in Methodist neurologists to not replace patient care currently available to stroke victims in Lufkin," said Suz Methodist Hospital stroke program administrator. "Your doctor is not this is just an added measure of patient care."

The RP-7 will also allow Lufkin patients to become familiar with Ho preventing them from feeling unsure or out of place in the event of

"If the patient were transferred they would literally meet their new p robot before they got there which helps them with the comfort level an unknown environment," Monsour said. "It just makes for a smoc the sharing of technology, ideas and expertise."

The RP-7's involvement in patient care is really just an extenuation "telemedicine," the transfer of medical information via telephone, In networks to serve a clinical purpose, according to Maria Gonzales, InTouch Health account manager. RP-7 can ev-time pictures of the patient back to the doctor, allowing them to check for drooping of the eye and other visible str

"Within three clicks of the mouse a doctor can be in your hospital interacting with the patient, their family and hosp they were there in person. The only thing the doctor can't do is touch the patient," Gonzales said. "Through the us the doctor can drive up to a workstation to give a consult on a CAT Scan, for example."

For patients concerned the robotic "second set of eyes and ears" loses the personal touch, Gonzales said not to w

"We never hear 'wow, if I could only see that person's right foot I know I could connect with them,'" Gonzales said. you, talk to you and look at you face-to-face. We've even heard from some people when asking where the doctor i want to see them live — I just want to see the robot.' Via the robot I've seen them connect with family members for life care and console them in the end of life process."

Any patient information downloaded to the robot is erased between visits in accordance with privacy laws.

Hospital staff are in training this week with RP-7 and it is expected to be making rounds by August, according to Y MHSET marketing director. There is currently a contest to name the robot with the winner taking home a \$50 Wal-mail naming ideas to YOGletree@memorialhealth.org or call (936) 639-7163. Names must be turned in no later th

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