



GE Healthcare

## **GE Healthcare, Healthcare Association of New York State and Bassett Healthcare Collaborating to Keep Patients Safe, Enhance Quality and Lower Cost of Care**

*Hospital room of the future, cost forecasting tool part of GE's healthymagination initiative*

**MILWAUKEE, WI.—June 23, 2009** – GE Healthcare today announced, as part of its healthymagination initiative, a research collaboration with the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) and Bassett Healthcare that will make hospitals safer for patients. GE's Global Research Center (GRC) and its partners are developing technologies for use in hospitals to identify and mitigate patient safety risks, including the Smart Patient Room and the Patient-Safety Forecaster, a tool used to model effectiveness and savings associated with patient safety interventions. Testing of the Smart Patient Room technologies and the Patient-Safety Forecaster is expected to begin at Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown, NY this fall.

Smart Patient Room technology will initially focus on three common patient safety risks: hand hygiene, patient falls and clinical rounds adherence. According to the Institute of Medicine, medical error is the eighth leading cause of death in the U. S., accounting for an estimated 44,000 to 100,000 preventable deaths per year. Falls alone cost the U.S. healthcare system \$1 billion annually, according to the American Hospital Association. Solutions developed through the healthymagination patient safety collaboration will support hospitals' efforts to improve health outcomes, reduce preventable medical errors and lower costs.

"Reducing medical errors requires a new understanding of the patient's hospital experience and the development of innovative, discrete technologies that mitigate safety risks," said Deepak Pillai, M.D., and Program Manager, GE Healthcare. "This collaboration brings together the technologies and data necessary to help keep patients safe. The result will be a solution that helps caregivers avoid preventable events and enhance patient care."

The Smart Patient Room will include technologies such as optical sensors to track the movement of clinicians and equipment, capture time between events and remotely read bar codes. The system will



use artificial intelligence and multiple sensing technologies to monitor, for example, not only when hand washings occur, but also when hand washings should have occurred. As the first-ever technology to do both, the system will help address this often over-looked element of patient safety. Data collected will also be used to create reports that compare actual treatment with recommended clinical protocol. Healthcare providers can use this information to manage clinical workflow, identify areas for improvement in care delivery and help ensure patient safety.

“Smart, predictive technology can help make patients safer and help hospitals operate more efficiently,” said William Streck, M.D., president & CEO, Bassett Healthcare. “Patient safety is critical to overall health care quality and an urgent industry-wide need. Bassett Healthcare is proud to partner in developing and testing these new technologies aimed at keeping patients safer.”

GE will also be involved in the development of a forecasting tool that calculates costs related to patient safety and adverse events. The Patient-Safety Forecaster will help organizations more accurately predict the benefits of various quality and safety investments and track the impact of improvements over time by linking behaviors, patient outcomes and cost. The initiative will combine HANYS’ deep expertise in healthcare data analysis with GE’s forecasting technologies and tools, providing a forward-looking estimate of the magnitude and cost of quality. Bassett Healthcare will help inform development of the tool and serve as the pilot site for testing forecast accuracy.

Maryjane Wurth, president and CEO, HANYS Solutions said, “Health care improvement will always be at the forefront of the national agenda. But the responsibility to make real changes and implement tangible improvements rests with the industry leaders who have dedicated their careers to patient care. I’m excited at the potential strides we can make toward improving patient safety through this partnership with GE Healthcare. The unique skills and expertise of both of these organizations, combined with an unwavering commitment to improving services for patients carries significant possibilities for the future of health care.”



**ABOUT GE HEALTHCARE:**

GE Healthcare provides transformational medical technologies and services that are shaping a new age of patient care. Our broad expertise in medical imaging and information technologies, medical diagnostics, patient monitoring systems, drug discovery, biopharmaceutical manufacturing technologies, performance improvement and performance solutions services help our customers to deliver better care to more people around the world at a lower cost. In addition, we partner with healthcare leaders, striving to leverage the global policy change necessary to implement a successful shift to sustainable healthcare systems.

Our healthymagination vision for the future invites the world to join us on our journey as we continuously develop innovations focused on reducing costs, increasing access and improving quality and efficiency around the world. Headquartered in the United Kingdom, GE Healthcare is a \$17 billion unit of General Electric Company (NYSE: GE). Worldwide, GE Healthcare employs more than 46,000 people committed to serving healthcare professionals and their patients in more than 100 countries. For more information about GE Healthcare, visit our website at [www.gehealthcare.com](http://www.gehealthcare.com)

**ABOUT HANYS:**

The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) is the only statewide hospital and continuing care association in New York State, representing more than 550 non-profit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, and other health care organizations.

As a HANYS' affiliate, HANYS Solutions is recognized nationally for its leadership and expertise in providing health care organizations across the country with operational, analytical, and educational tools to improve performance and efficiency. DataGen, a subsidiary of HANYS Solutions, provides data products that reach 85% of hospitals in the United States.

**ABOUT BASSETT HEALTHCARE:**

Bassett Healthcare and affiliates is a system of physicians, providers, hospitals and community health centers in eight counties, covering 5,000 square miles. The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital (doing business as Bassett Healthcare), the foundation for this network, is a 180-bed, acute care inpatient teaching facility in Cooperstown, NY. The hospital maintains a strong academic program and rich tradition as a center for learning through its affiliation with Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. BHC includes The Bassett Clinic, 24-hour emergency and trauma care, comprehensive cancer care, heart care, dialysis, The Bassett Research Institute, and four affiliated hospitals.

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