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Telehealth: Top Remote Patient Monitoring Devices



WRITTEN BY RICHARD SCOTT

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With new CMS rules about telehealth on the horizon, the market for patient monitoring devices and home-based tracking systems is poised for continued growth. According to research from medical device and pharmaceutical research firm iData Research, the patient-monitoring market will reach over \$4 billion by 2017. Part of this upward trend is the strength and growing use of home telehealth devices, a segment that has grown more than 17 percent this year.

"There has been a growing trend among U.S. hospitals to decrease acute and long-term care expenses. Patient turnover in hospitals is increasing, resulting in large growth of the home telehealth monitoring device market," said Dr. Kamran Zamanian, CEO of iData, in a statement.

The report says that Bosch Healthcare, Philips Healthcare, Cardiocom and Honeywell are at the top of the telehealth delivery options. Below we take a closer look at each of these leading company's offerings.

Bosch Healthcare. Bosch offers the **Health Buddy System**, a remote interactive device that connects patients with their health provider through a phone line or through the Internet. The Health Buddy, which looks like a small handheld device, works through an alert system that reminds patients to answer a series of questions about their health on a daily basis. The answers to those questions are sent to the provider, who can identify trends and warning signs—potentially circumventing major problems.

The Health Buddy focuses on chronic condition management, including hypertension, COPD, diabetes and congestive heart failure. In addition to monitoring, it offers medication reminders. Coverage of Health Buddy varies by insurance company.

Philips Healthcare. The Philips line of products centers around what it calls a **TeleStation**, which provides multiple touchpoints for patient-caregiver interaction. The TeleStation sends information to care providers automatically when patient choose to wear a **wireless measuring device**. This wireless device can capture signs like blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation, and heart rate. The TeleStation also offers the option for manual entry of data.

When a patient's responses are outside of normal ranges, the system will send an automatic survey to follow up. It can also be tailored to fit a patient's specific disease state—educating the patient on signs and symptoms, medication and side effects, and diet and lifestyle.

Cardiocom. Unlike the other companies mentioned here, Cardiocom offers a wide array of both technology and case and disease management services. Focusing on the device itself, the company offers the **Commander Data Management System**, a sleek interactive monitoring device that captures an array of biometric data: weight, blood pressure, blood glucose, peak flow and oxygen saturation. The Commander, like those above, also poses real-time questions to the patient, giving the care provider with the latest information.

Other offerings from Cardiocom include the Telescale for congestive heart failure patients and the Thin-Link System for bariatric patient telemanagement. The Omnivisor software platform provides a comprehensive option for home health providers, as well as other institutional care providers.

Honeywell HomMed. Like Cardiocom, Honeywell HomMed offers a range of products for variant uses. The leader in its product line for home health monitoring is the **Genesis DM** remote patient care monitor. This tool captures all of the main biometric measures and offers an audio option, giving a literal voice to the patient care process. The device is web-enabled, meaning it can automatically download content, updates and prompts for the individual patient's disease state and specific symptom readings.

Honeywell HomMed also offers a LifeStream platform, which gives care providers secure access to patients' health data. Because

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this software platform operates online, it grants providers access to critical information wherever there is an Internet connection.

Do you use a remote monitoring device? What do you think about the future of telehealth and home-based care. Share your thoughts, ideas, feedback and stories with Editor Richard Scott. Click [here](#) to email him.

