

## Study on Home Healthcare Aims to Prevent Re-Hospitalization

**G**E Healthcare, Intel Corp. and the Mayo Clinic are investigating greater use of home delivery of healthcare for patients at increased risk of re-hospitalization.

Mayo Clinic will conduct a yearlong research study of 200 high-risk patients over age 60 to determine if daily in-home monitoring of patients with chronic diseases, using Intel's remote patient monitoring technology, will reduce hospital stays and emergency department visits.

Mayo Clinic patients in Rochester, MN, will measure vital signs such as blood pressure, pulse and weight, and respond to daily questions specific to their diseases. Data will be reviewed by a clinical care team working with the patient's primary care provider. The technology, which also includes videoconferencing capability, allows the care team to assess the patient for signs and symptoms to try to head off emergency department visits and hospitalizations.



Dr. Gregory Hanson of the Mayo Clinic Department of Primary Care Internal Medicine, a study leader, says the research will enable the clinic to “build on its model of care to provide products and services to people in new ways.”

GE Healthcare and Intel plan to invest \$250 million over the next five years for the research and product development of home-based health technologies.

“Transforming healthcare requires more than just healthcare reform. It requires innovative thinking and the use of technology to change how and where care is delivered,” says Louis Burns, vice president and general manager of the Intel Digital Health Group. “We need to go beyond just hospital and clinic visits when we are sick to home and community-based care models that allow for prevention, early detection, behavior change and social support.” ■

### Top Scorers Reveal Ingredients for Certification Success

**M**ix a good night's sleep with plenty of studying and mentoring from colleagues and what do you get? A recipe for success on one of the International Certification Commission certification exams.

This method helped Dale Witsman, a biomedical equipment technician (BMET) II at Clarian Health Partners in Indianapolis, IN, become the 2009 top scorer on the certified biomedical equipment technician (CBET) exam.



Dale Witsman

Witsman even made some lifestyle changes to get ready for the CBET exam. “I changed my diet and my sleep habits,” he says.

Witsman also joined an area study group and took practice tests. “The test questions prodded me to get out the old college textbooks, start going through some of the areas, and make sure I really understood the material,” he says.

In addition to Witsman, Ken Hahn has been named the top 2009 scorer on the certified radiology equipment specialist (CRES) exam and Ken Ottenberg, a biomedical manager for Hospital Shared Services in Denver, CO, the top scorer on the certified laboratory equipment specialist (CLES) exam.



Ken Hahn

Hahn recommends that biomedics prepare for the exams by getting as much hands-on experience as possible. “Volunteer to take on responsibilities at work that you haven't done before,” he says.

The deadline to register for the next exam is May 18. The exam will only be held on June 29 in Tampa, FL, site of the 2010 AAMI Annual Conference & Expo, which runs from June 26-28. The deadline to register for the Nov. 6 exam is Sept. 25. For more information, visit [www.aami.org/certification](http://www.aami.org/certification). ■