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HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

FCC-FDA Workshop:
Promoting Medical Technology Innovation –
The Role of Wireless Test Beds

Defining the Need for and Scope of Wireless Medical Device Testbeds

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mHealth Task Force

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

*Improving care delivery through enhanced communications
among providers, patients, and payers*

Pre-Publication Public Draft
September 24, 2012

<http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/mhealth/mHealthRecommendations.pdf>

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4.4. FCC should encourage and lend its expertise for the creation and implementation of wireless test beds.

Testing and evaluating innovative wireless healthcare devices is complex and expensive, in part due to the scarcity of complete wireless test environments and expertise. A more effective approach to using spectrum for test-bed environments is needed. The FCC should finalize its proposal to streamline its experimental licensing program, including licensing for medical device experimentation, which will enable industry to form wireless test beds and publicly share their results. Access to FCC expertise for guidance is also necessary (e.g., beyond consultation received via the OET Laboratory Division Knowledge Database).

Specifically, we recommend that the FCC encourage and lend its expertise to the following initiatives:

- Creation of national centers with equipment, expertise, licenses, and support staff.
- Identification of tools and consensus standards to monitor and assess the performance of wireless technologies in healthcare environments.
- Easier access to spectrum or rules for healthcare that feed the quest for interoperability (e.g., separate medical spectrum with more capability, rules for more protections on critical care spectrum, emergency situations communications).
- Encouragement for innovation of technology and other tools such as standards or publications.
- Encouragement of newer technology (e.g., cognitive radio) and applications that are built on a risk management approach.

FCC Consumer Advisory Committee Recommendations, 2014

“FCC should convene a workshop to evaluate streamlining experimental licensing for medical device experimentation; identifying tools and consensus standards to monitor and assess the performance of wireless technologies in healthcare environments; and to assess the need for national wireless medical test bed centers with equipment, expertise, licenses, and support staff.”