

SmartLife Solutions for the Healthcare Industry

How Smart Textiles Can Tackle Healthcare Concerns

Global Economic Recession

The economic downturn across the United Kingdom and the rest of the world has put great pressure on hospital finances and employees. This is a major concern for healthcare professionals, investors and patients. According to experts, **over half** of hospitals are cutting administrative costs and reducing staff to cope with the recession (AMA, 2008). This however, puts considerable strain on the existing employees and resources.



SmartLife's monitoring technology enables healthcare professionals to monitor patients without using valuable bed space or even booking an appointment. This will enable hospital employees to dedicate face-to-face interaction with patients requiring immediate care, whilst monitored patients can be consulted via a phone call.



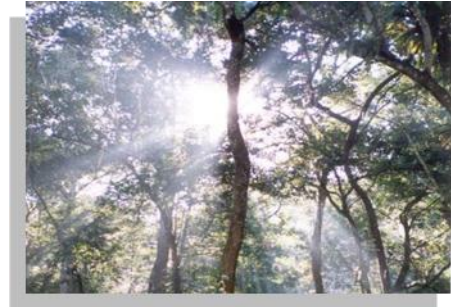
Overcrowding

Hospital overcrowding can cause serious problems to arise – such as patients being placed in inappropriate locations, long delays for care, health complications and even fatalities (Sprivilus, 2005).

Therefore, hospitals need sustainable approaches to the growing demand for acute healthcare. SmartLife can provide technology solutions that compliment the hospital's existing infrastructure and operations, thus allowing patients who do not require a hospital visit to be monitored and even diagnosed remotely. This will free up beds for people who need them - providing personal care for more critical cases.

Environmental Impact

Now that the 'green revolution' is in full-swing, all sectors are looking for ways to reduce their CO2 footprint. SmartLife's technology solutions can reduce the amount of home visits needed, by supporting remote patient monitoring. Conversely, if patients are not required to come to the hospital or doctor's surgery for an appointment then the patients' carbon footprint is also reduced.



SmartLife's technology can be an environmentally beneficial solution to tackling the healthcare sectors concerns about environmental impact.



Baby Boomer Generation

People born during the early years of the baby boom (1946 through 1950) constitutes a 55% increase of the 50 to 54 year olds, the largest growth between 1990 and 2000 of any five year age group. The second fastest-growing group was 45-49 year olds, which has a documented 45% increase. This (second) group, is in the prime age (50's and 60's) for acute healthcare concerns. Healthcare providers have to manage with this large ageing population.

Older patients with health monitoring needs can be remotely accessed via SmartLife technology which has the facility to be viewed by their doctor on a daily basis and in a matter of seconds. The mature patient can enjoy the comfort of staying at home, while having their health needs met.

MRSA Infections

Overcrowding and understaffing in hospitals are two key factors in increased levels of MRSA infections. Healthcare professionals claim that keeping older or vulnerable patients out of the hospital for monitoring and check-up needs, can aid in the prevention of MRSA to these 'high-risk' patients.

If SmartLife's technology is integrated into a hospital's monitoring systems, the threat of MRSA infections can be proportionately decreased.

