

Wireless Internet is now accessible at EO Hospital

Patients and visitors at East Orange General Hospital can now use their wireless-equipped laptop computers and other wireless devices to access the Internet around the hospital campus. This service will enable both patients and visitors to stay connected with family and friends during their hospitalization. And the wireless network, provided by Ruckus Wireless, allows guests to surf the web, check e-mails, and

chat with friends and family on their personal computers.

Recently launched, the wireless network is separate from the hospital's computer network to ensure privacy and security. There is no cost for patients and visitors to access the wireless network.

"Our patient population has become more computer literate," says Kevin Slavin, president and CEO, East Orange General Hospital. "We know that many people

today use the Internet to access information about health and wellness, something that may increase during a hospital stay."

Slavin says there is a national trend to add wireless networks at hospitals for patient and visitor use.

"This is typically a service that you find at much larger hospitals in urban settings," he said, "but as East Orange General Hospital continues to strive to be progres-

sive and offer service excellence, we are pleased to offer this to our patients and their families."

With this new service, patients and their families can stay productive and entertain themselves during their stay.

"We expect this to be a popular service and a good way to enhance the overall patient experience," said Tom Ciccarelli, chief information officer at East Orange General Hospital.

Ciccarelli emphasized that the public wireless network has the highest security standard and does not allow access to the hospital's separate and secure network.

"In no way will guest users be able to access the hospital data network, hospital information systems or confidential patient information," he said. "This is a completely different system to prevent and access into patient records and other sensitive files."