

# EOGH PROVIDES FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS TO PATIENTS & VISITORS

East Orange, N.J., August 20, 2010 – 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. Both patients and visitors can now 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 but as East Orange General Hospital continues to strive to be progressive 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. “We are thrilled to offer this benefit to help patients feel less isolated and more connected,” said Ciccarelli.

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. This is a completely different system to prevent and access into patient records and other sensitive files.

“Usually when you walk into a hospital, you'll notice there are signs that prohibit the use of cell phones in the vicinity. This is

because cell phone use, in theory, creates interference that disrupts transmissions between different pieces of medical equipment. However, recent studies indicate that mobile devices do not have a negative effect on hospital equipment.

Additionally, the ban on mobile phones places a huge deal of inconvenience on patients and families. They must exit the hospital in order to make phone calls and it is extremely difficult to track urgent calls when mobile devices are required to be turned off.

Newer and modern cell phone technologies have implemented digitalized capabilities that decrease the potential for interference. This is because older cell phones transmit an analog signal that is extremely powerful and increases the likelihood of interference. Newer cell phones are digital so they operate at lower power levels.

The technology, I think, has evolved and those concerns, while they are still there, are very small. Certainly, current literature tells us that it is a much lower risk than it ever was.”

For more information, please call (973) 672-8400 or visit us at our website [www.evh.org](http://www.evh.org).