
mWard

The mWard project is currently supported by NEC Business Solutions, Southern Health (through Monash Medical Centre), Symbol Technologies, Warp Technologies and Tele-IP.

The mWard project is part of the Australian Government's National Research Priority of "Frontier Technologies for Building and Transferring Australian Industries", with the Priority Goal of "Smart Information Use".



The mWard project was awarded by the Australian Government an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project Grant (LP0455331).

mWard

'Enhancing patient management at the point of care using mobile wireless technologies'

The mWard project is an industry partnered university research project.

The project's main aims are to support nomadic clinical work practices & enhance patient care using mobile technology.

The project's research fields, courses and disciplines are Health Information Systems, Computer Communications Networks and Computer-Human Interaction. The project's socio-economic objectives are in Technological and organisational innovation, and Information Services.

This original collaborative research project is proudly supported by Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, and Faculty of Information Technology



Contact mWard

linda.dawson@infotech.monash.edu.au

julie.fisher@infotech.monash.edu.au

stephen.weeding@med.monash.edu.au

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mWARD

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W idely

A pplied

R esearch and

D evelopment

in healthcare services

 MONASH University

Southern Health

NEC

Empowered by Innovation



Enhancing patient management at the point of care using mobile wireless technologies

mWard



The mWard project is investigating the implementation of wireless devices and applications for patient administration in the Neurosciences ward at Monash Medical Centre. A wireless infrastructure has been installed and clinical staff are able to conduct their rounds with notebook computers or PDAs at the patients' bedside. The research team is assessing the acceptance of the new devices and applications by nursing and medical staff. Organisational change issues and new work practice adaptation in a technology-enhanced environment is of particular interest. Outcomes from the project will include a set of guidelines and techniques for introducing and managing technology-enhanced patient administration and clinical systems.

Laptops on trolleys

One of the most useful mobile wireless devices has been the laptop on a trolley. The advantages include:

- It is easy to implement and training is simplified as it is similar to a desktop PC
- It provides access to same software systems as desktop PCs
- The resolution of radiology images is excellent
- Information management is transportable to point of care
- The laptop can accompany clinicians on ward rounds
- Information is available for patient/family consultations at any location
- Access to the internet and patient databases is available across all areas of the ward



PDAs

The advantages include:

- Information management is transportable to point of care
- Ruggedised construction protects against damage
- Barcode reader capability allows accurate patient identification & matching to pathology results
- Allows access to Internet, MIMS databases, the hospital intranet & email



mWard's partners

Monash University (incorporating Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; and Faculty of Information Technology), NEC Business Solutions, and Southern Health (through Monash Medical Centre).

Chief Investigators

Dr Linda Dawson, Faculty of Information Technology
Associate Professor Julie Fisher, Faculty of Information Technology
Dr Liza Heslop, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences