

For Immediate Release

Media contact: Britt Rosenberg
Virginia Garcia
Memorial Foundation
503.352.8618
brosenberg@vgmhc.org

Intel and Clear partner with Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center to improve health services to new moms and babies

WiMAX ready laptops and free wireless internet service will improve care, increase efficiency and streamline referral and educational services to new moms

July 28, 2009, Hillsboro, OR— New local families receiving care from Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center (Virginia Garcia) can expect more comprehensive care, thanks to a generous donation of two brand new WiMAX laptops from Intel and three months of free wireless service from Clear. Nurses are able to provide more accurate and efficient follow up care by logging in to Virginia Garcia's electronic health record system to input health information, view patient charts and look up resources online during outreach and home visits with new families.

The WiMAX ready laptops will be used by Virginia Garcia nurses as they visit the homes of newborn babies and their families. Home visits ensure that new moms and babies are healthy and that they have the resources they need in their first language. Home visits for new moms are critical to Virginia Garcia's patient population and help patients access medical advice and care without visiting the emergency room if they have concerns. 73% of the families Virginia Garcia serves are below the federal poverty level and often meeting basic needs like food and clothing can be a challenge. Nurses connect families to community resources and help them feel comfortable and confident with their new role as parents.

The Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center provides high quality, comprehensive and culturally appropriate primary healthcare care to over 30,000 patients in Washington and Yamhill Counties and delivers more than 700 babies each year.

WiMAX laptops will improve efficiency at Virginia Garcia and enable nurses to serve more patients. Previously, when nurses did home visits, they would take paper notes and then return to the clinic and input information into the electronic health record system. Having the laptops available for home visits allows nurses to view and input important information while in the field and saves time that could be spent serving additional patients. This also helps nurses provide appropriate education and quickly access referral and resource information for families.

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Lynn Baker, a clinic manager at Virginia Garcia, is thrilled about the donation and said, "having the ability to electronically view patient information, find resource information, and capture chart notes in the field takes Virginia Garcia to a new level in our efforts to provide quality care to our new moms and their babies. Our nurses are very excited about adding this capability to their visits!"

WiMAX is the next generation of wireless technology and enables high speed mobile internet access. Intel has been a major driver in the development of this important new technology and has designed WiMAX capabilities in many of their mobile technologies to support mobile high speed internet.

"The WiMAX ready laptops will provide Virginia Garcia staff with tools to enhance offsite patient care when nurses conduct home visits or provide services in remote locations. We're anxious to hear updates on how this technology is improving care and are excited to be a part of this endeavor," said Janet Rash, Intel's Community Affairs Manager.

Intel has played an active role in making this new technology widely available to community organizations free of charge. Intel has partnered with local organizations such as the Oregon National Guard, Portland Habilitation Center, Jackson Bottom and El Centro Cultural. Their generosity and involvement in the community has enabled these organizations to improve their programs through the use of technology.

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