

Recent Updates

(News in Healthcare Sector)

Philips released Two New DICOM Compliant Clinical Review Displays at InfoComm 2013 in June

Designed for everyday clinical environments, the 24- and 27-inch LCD monitors offer anti-microbial housing to inhibit bacterial growth, a medical grade power supply to ensure safety and low emission, and D-image preset for consistent DICOM grayscale medical images. Designed to complement clinical environments, the Philips 24-inch and 27-inch clinical review displays help ensure that medical images are shown consistently with high quality to achieve reliable interpretations. The rendering of medical grayscale images on standard monitors is mostly inconsistent at best, making them unsuitable for usage in a clinical environment. Philips clinical review displays with clinical D-image preset are factory calibrated to give DICOM part 14 compatible grayscale standard display performance. By using high quality LCD panels with LED technology, Philips aims to offer consistent and reliable performance at an affordable price point. Priced at \$899 and \$1,099, the Philips Brilliance LCD Monitors with Clinical D-image will be available soon to enterprise buyers through CDW and other resellers.

Toshiba showcases New MR Smart Fusion Ultrasound Technology

Toshiba America Medical Systems, Inc., has extended Aplio 500's Smart Fusion ultrasound technology to MR. Smart Fusion syncs previously acquired CT or MR images with live ultrasound and displays them side-by-side on a single screen. This technology helps to locate hard-to-find lesions and aids in ultrasound-guided procedures without additional CT fluoroscopy or MR scans. Toshiba's Smart Fusion is easy to use, with the most intuitive user setup available.

Frost and Sullivan presents Carestream with 2013 Asia Pacific Market Leadership Award

Frost and Sullivan has recognized Carestream Health for market growth with its 2013 Asia Pacific Market Penetration Leadership Award for the Digital and Computed Radiography Market. Frost and Sullivan presents this award to the company that has demonstrated excellence in capturing the fastest rate of change of market share within its industry from 1 year to the next. The award recognizes how fast a company increases its penetration of a market relative to its competitors, in terms of revenues or units, and is a measure of its success in taking market share away from its competitors from 1 year to the next. For more information, please visit www.carestream.com.

Philips and Vidyo introduce Next Generation Telehealth Services

Royal Philips Electronics and Vidyo are collaborating to offer health system providers an approach for extending telehealth solutions across the enterprise. Next generation telehealth services will require scalable and flexible advanced video technology to adapt to the full range of clinical work stations and mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops. 'Philips is committed to working with industry leaders to better address healthcare needs by expanding telehealth services beyond the ICU, as well as externally to remote clinics 'physician offices and into the home.'

Maquet Installs Hybrid OR with Siemens Angiography System

Physicians, hospital administrators and hospital design engineers can obtain comprehensive information about current solutions available for interdisciplinary patient care with the opening of the new hybrid OR at the Surgical Academy in Rastatt. While the hybrid OR was primarily utilized for cardiovascular procedures, it can now be used in disciplines, such as neurosurgery, orthopedics, trauma surgery and urology. 'Hybrid operating rooms are most cost-effective when they are able to be used by various disciplines, for cardiovascular surgery as well as for normal OR operation, resulting in maximum utilization while minimizing downtime,' said Klaus Christian, Global Project Manager for Hybrid ORs at Maquet.

Telemedicine Equipment Revenues Grow 237%

The telemedicine patient monitoring market grew from \$4.2 billion in 2007 to a value of more than \$10 billion dollars in 2012, according to Kalorama Information. The healthcare market research publisher said that while the market is small,

it is fast growing with a large amount of competitors and increasing awareness of effectiveness. The finding was made in Kalorama Information's newly published report, 'Advanced Patient Monitoring Systems.'

PSM India Initiative brings Together Government, Industry and Healthcare Stakeholders to help to stop the Spread of Spurious Medicines

The partnership for safe medicines (PSM) India Initiative, a public health organization dedicated to protecting consumers from spurious and not-of-standard medicines, recently hosted its second event in less than a week to discuss near-term solutions that help train healthcare professionals, patients, consumer groups and other stakeholders throughout India and beyond. 'The people of India who are not aware of the medicine they are taking should know the quality and where it comes from,' said Sri UT Khader, Honourable Health Minister, Karnataka, at Friday's event in Bengaluru. 'They should know what they are consuming.' 'We have to empower the consumers,' said Dr GN Singh, DCGI, Govt of India. 'Let there be light and let people be empowered. That is the India we are seeking today' Guest speakers at this forum included, Mr CP Singh, IAS, Chairman, NPPA; Dr VG Somani, Joint Drugs Controller India, Dr Surinder Singh, Director I/C National Institute of Biologicals, Mr Mahesh Zagade, IAS, FDA Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra, Dr Sanjay Oak, Vice Chancellor, DY Patil Medical University, Mumbai, and Dr Pervez Ahmed, a leading Private Sector Healthcare Provider and Vice Chairman, PSM India Initiative.

College of American Pathologists along with BD Announce Strategic Alliance to support Laboratory Quality and Performance in India

With the aim to provide quality diagnosis and better treatment outcomes for patients, the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the world leader in laboratory quality assurance and improvement and BD Diagnostics, a segment of BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), a leading global medical technology company, recently announced the launch of a new strategic alliance that would help more pathology labs in the country to offer high quality services at par with the rest of the world. Having operated in India since 1996 supporting public and private sector partners in enhancing laboratory standards, BD has extensive experience in deploying clinical expertise and educational resources, as well as a deep understanding of the unique needs of laboratories in the country. In India, of the 71 laboratories participating in CAP PT, 42 have achieved CAP-accreditation. BD's access and logistics experience will support CAP PT importation and ensure more timely delivery and quality, reduce participants' administrative work, and allow billing in local currency. Market launch of this initiative will begin in India in August 2013 with PT distribution initiated in January 2014.

Fortis Sells Entire Stake in Vietnam Hospital Chain

With reference to the earlier announcement dated June 11, 2013, intimating decision of Board of one of the Company's step down subsidiaries) based out of Singapore, i.e. Fortis Healthcare International Pvt Ltd., to divest its entire holding in Fortis Hoan My Medical Corporation, VOF PE Holding2 Limited and Swindon Limited subject to necessary regulatory approvals or otherwise to Viva Holdings Vietnam (Pvt) Ltd for an aggregate consideration of USD 80 mn (the transaction), Fortis Healthcare Ltd has announced that the transaction has been concluded on August 20, 2013.

The Food Security Bill, 2013

The Food Security Bill is passed by Government of India and both house. The bill aims to provide subsidized foodgrain to around 67% of India's 1.2 billion people. As per the provisions of the bill, beneficiaries would get rice at INR 3/kg, wheat at INR 2/kg, and coarse grains at INR 1/kg. These rates would be valid for 3 years. Every pregnant woman and lactating mother would get free meal during pregnancy till 6 months after child birth. They will also get a maternity benefit of INR 6,000 in instalments. Children up to 14 years would get free meals. In case of nonsupply of foodgrains, states will have to pay food security allowance to beneficiaries. The bill was passed with rejecting more than 300 amendments in Lok Sabha on 26 August 2013.

Cabinet Clears Mental Healthcare Bill 2013

The Union Cabinet on Thursday cleared the Mental Healthcare Bill 2013 that makes access to mental healthcare a right of all persons. Such services should be affordable, of good quality and available without discrimination, it said. The proposed law decriminalises suicide.

The bill, in consonance with international laws, has the provision of advance directives — described as a progressive and far-sighted step. No person who has recorded an advance directive to State that he or she should not be admitted to a facility without consent can be so admitted.

A rights-based bill also has a provision wherein a person with mental illness can appoint a nominated representative to take decisions for him or her. Under the provisions of the bill, government has an obligation to provide half way homes, community caring centers and other shelters for mentally ill people. This has been planned under the District Mental Health Programme in the 12th Plan.

In 2005, the National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health reported that 10 to 12 million or 1 to 2% of the population suffered from severe mental disorders, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and nearly 50 million or 5% from common mental disorders, such as depression and anxiety, yielding an overall estimate of 6.5% of the population.

The new bill, once approved by Parliament, will repeal the Mental Health Act 1987, which had vested extraordinary power in the hands of the treating psychiatrists. There was enough evidence of misuse and unscrupulous families collaborating with psychiatrists in addition to badly functional or nonfunctional central and mental health authorities primarily because of lack of funds.