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## Hospital Offers Free Wireless Internet Access

Rome Memorial Hospital now offers free wireless internet access for patients and visitors to stay connected and pass the time while they're at the hospital.

Using their own personal wireless devices, patients and visitors can access the World Wide Web anywhere in the hospital to catch up on e-mail, connect with loved ones, surf the internet or even get a little work done.



**SPREADING THE NEWS** – With free wireless internet access, it's easier to spread the news when a baby is born at Rome Memorial Hospital. John Hussey and his wife, Laura, share a family photo featuring their newest addition Jaiden Nicholas Hussey with family and friends. The free guest network is now available throughout the hospital for patients and visitors to stay connected. Measuring 20 inches and weighing in at 7 pounds and 13 ounces, Jaiden was born at the hospital Monday, March 7. He will be joining older brothers Justin, 14, and Jared, 7, at their house in Rome.

“We are pleased to offer this free service to our patients and visitors,” said Assistant Vice President/Chief Information Officer Bruce Peterson. “One of the hardest parts of a hospital stay can be the feeling of isolation and boredom. By offering this service, we are giving our patients and their families a way to stay connected with the world outside the hospital.”

Patients can keep family posted on their condition or even e-mail those first precious baby pictures to friends, all without leaving the comfort of their room.

Some patients expressed a need to stay connected with their office, especially if they own their own business. “We recognize that their time is valuable and this is a way we can help them minimize the inconvenience of being in the hospital,” Peterson said.

“The internet has become an integral part of many people's lives for work, entertainment and social interaction,” he continued. “By providing our patients with the comforts of

home they can focus on the most important thing, their health. We expect this to be a highly utilized service and a great way to enhance the overall patient experience.”

Patients and visitors can access the free wireless network using their personal wireless-enabled device, a standard internet browser and a Wi-Fi card. The new guest network is segmented from

the hospital's secured network to prevent access to confidential patient information. When signing into the connection, all users must agree to the terms and conditions of usage before accessing the network. Like any public hotspot, the guest network is not secured.

The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. and The Rome Community Foundation – Stevens Kingsley Fund each awarded the hospital a \$40,000 grant to help underwrite the cost of the network, which is a key component of the infrastructure needed for the hospital's new health information system and nurse call management system. To make the entire facility a wireless hotspot, the hospital increased its number of wireless access points from 14 to 150 to ensure seamless wireless service on all floors, including the hospital's lobby, dining area, Twig's snack bar and emergency department waiting area.

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