

# Cardiac Telemonitoring System Replacement



## Technology that saves lives

Sometimes, cardiac telemonitoring can detect a serious problem before a patient shows symptoms. Recently, a telemonitoring technician noticed that a patient's heart began going into a deadly rhythm. The technician called "code blue," the signal for the care team to respond to cardiac or respiratory arrest. Staff responded immediately and performed CPR, saving the patient's life.

## The right tools for the job

Every day, Northern Light AR Gould Hospital's caregivers provide the advanced, highly personalized care that our patients need to live their healthiest lives. Their work is guided by sophisticated medical technology that helps them make lifesaving decisions and provide effective treatment.

AR Gould Hospital's cardiac telemonitoring system is an important tool that allows the care team to understand each patient's condition and the best "next steps" in care. The system monitors heart rate, heart rhythm, blood pressure, breathing rate, and oxygen levels.

The hospital's telemonitoring system will soon reach the end of its useful life and will need to be replaced and expanded. While it continues to be fully functional, support from the manufacturer will end, and the individual units that are used to monitor patients may not be repairable, which may stretch the hospital's limited supply of monitors.

With the community's support, the hospital will purchase a new telemonitoring system to maintain access to this critical technology, expand the number of patients that can be monitored, and take advantage of new features that will provide caregivers with more useful, timely information.



## Wayne's story



Nancy Holmes remembers the fear that she felt when her husband Wayne's heart stopped beating on September 20, 2016, at AR Gould Hospital. "It was something that I don't think anyone is prepared for. I told him that I loved him and to hang in there and that we would be there for him," she says.

The cardiac telemonitoring system alerted the ICU nurse of the problem, and several staff members of the care team rushed into the room and immediately began performing CPR. They were able to restart Wayne's heart, but they had a difficult time keeping it going.

**"Telemonitoring allows access to data in real time, which in and of itself provides much needed information to respond to the dynamic nature of our patients' care. It is a life changer in efficient patient care."**

– Dr. Seleipiri Akobo, MD

Eventually, Wayne's heart gained a normal rhythm, and he was put on a pacemaker. Throughout his hospital stay, Wayne's care team relied on the cardiac telemonitoring system to understand how his heart was responding and provide the right care.

"If it hadn't been for the equipment they had, and the doctors and nurses, I don't think he would be here today," says Nancy. "We need the up-to-date equipment so that people can get the care they need here."

Wayne is doing excellent today. He enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and hanging around the house. Wayne and Nancy are grateful for the care that he received at AR Gould Hospital and are thankful that the technology needed to help him survive and recover was available.

## Why monitor?

Cardiac telemonitoring allows a single highly trained technician to monitor all patients from one central location in the hospital. The patient's care team is notified immediately if the technician notices a dangerous change in vital signs. This team approach to care ensures that patients receive the right care at the right time – and it can improve outcomes.

Patients in the Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Department, Inpatient Medical/Surgical/Telemetry Unit, and the Nursery may be monitored.

Telemonitoring benefits patients of all ages who have a variety of medical issues, including:

- Patients who experience congestive heart failure (CHF), a heart attack, or a stroke.
- Patients who need to have their heart and respiratory rate monitored until they adjust to medication.
- Patients who have had major surgery.
- Newborn babies who have difficulty thriving.
- Pediatric patients who have difficulty breathing due to asthma or a viral illness like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

The system monitors patients wherever they are in the hospital. For example, if a patient needs to go to the Imaging Department for a scan, the system will monitor them the entire time they are away from their room.

**"Cardiac telemonitoring is a non-invasive system that has the capability to detect problematic cardiac rhythms through a series of sensors that in turn sound an alarm. Alarms that warn me that something is wrong before the patient even knows there is a problem. Cardiac telemonitoring is one of the first lines of defense in providing the best care for our patients."**

– Linsley E. Hews, RN

## By the numbers

**2,771** number of patients in the hospital who are monitored each year

**38** monitors currently available

**54** monitors needed to meet future demand

**The number of patients who need to be monitored has increased in recent years as patients throughout the hospital have more complex medical issues. Caregivers rely on the technology more than ever before. The new GE Carescape Central Station monitoring system will offer several advantages over the current technology:**

- It will compare current heart rhythm data with historical information, providing deeper insights into a patient's condition and empowering caregivers to make the right decisions. The current system lacks this functionality.
- Information will be entered directly into a patient's health record. Data that is currently printed on paper strips will be viewed and analyzed electronically, which will result in more efficient, effective care.
- All of the information that caregivers need will be available anywhere in the hospital where there is a computer.



## Modernizing will benefit patients



# The future of cardiac telemonitoring begins now

AR Gould Hospital Foundation is raising **\$240,000** to replace this critically important technology. The replacement includes purchasing the central monitoring system, the receivers that connect each patient with the system, and the software licenses and computer technology needed to operate the system.

Philanthropic support is a key element in bringing the next generation of cardiac telemonitoring to AR Gould Hospital. With the support of our community, we can continue to provide our care teams with the tools they need to provide high quality care, right here in our community.

On behalf of every patient and family who relies on AR Gould Hospital, thank you for considering a philanthropic commitment to help us bring this next level of care to AR Gould Hospital.

To get involved, please contact:

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Or, contribute online at:

**[www.northernlighthealth.org/cardiacmonitoring](http://www.northernlighthealth.org/cardiacmonitoring)**



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