

WORLD CARE USES TELEMEDICINE TO REACH HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS WORLDWIDE

Consortium of prestigious medical centers is centerpiece of global telemedicine network

CAMBRIDGE, MA, October 22, 1997 – WorldCare Limited today announce completion of an agreement among a consortium of four prestigious medical centers to provide state-of-the-art telemedicine services worldwide. This consortium is the first collaboration between WorldCare and four major U.S. medical centers, including the Massachusetts General Hospital, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Duke University Medical Center and Johns Hopkins Medicine, to provide high-quality healthcare services to patients abroad.

WorldCare currently provides telemedicine services to healthcare providers and their patients in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Services will soon be extended to Malaysia, Italy, the United Kingdom, India, Mexico, Cypress, Kuwait and Turkey. “WorldCare is redefining telemedicine to meet the needs of today’s global healthcare marketplace,” said Nasser Menhall, WorldCare’s President and CEO. “By harnessing international as well as local healthcare resources, our telemedicine network makes high-quality patient care an affordable reality for many people around the world.”

WorldCare’s network uses advanced wavelet compression technology to transmit high-resolution data such as X-rays and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans. This medically validated technology is the first to receive 5120(K) clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The WorldCare telemedicine network has been designed to use any form of available bandwidth, from simple telephone lines to high-speed digital connections.

International Telemedicine

Through WorldCare’s International Medical division, doctors in even the remotest parts of the world use the telemedicine network to seek second opinions on medical images and other data from sub specialists at consortium medical centers. Patient management consultations are transmitted to the WorldCare network hub in Cambridge, MA, where trained healthcare professionals forward the medical data to a specialist at a WorldCare Consortium institution for diagnosis. A second opinion is transmitted back to the requesting physician within 48 hours for standard cases, and within 2 to 4 hours for emergencies.

“Physicians at our institutions are eager to work with colleagues who may be thousands of miles away,” said James Thrall, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Radiology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. “The

WorldCare telemedicine network eliminates the traditional geographic or financial constraints that may have been barriers to providing the best possible healthcare worldwide.”

Broad Applications in the Global Marketplace

While International telemedicine is a mainstay of the company’s business, WorldCare is applying its technology and telemedicine network to other areas, including:

- Offering continuing medical education telesymposia through The WorldCare Foundation. For example, The WorldCare Foundation and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation recently presented a telesymposium on heart valve surgery that reached more than 2,000 physicians worldwide.
- Improving the efficiency of clinical trial data analysis and management.
- Creating customized electronic information systems for hospitals and healthcare networks.
- Linking U.S. radiology centers with the WorldCare Consortium to improve quality and efficiency.
- Assisting in the design and building of “hospitals of the future” by consulting with expert planners and incorporating telemedicine capabilities.

“Our diverse business activities are natural extensions of our technological expertise and our vast network of high-quality healthcare contact,” Mr. Menhall said. “Through these activities, WorldCare is giving Telemedicine a vibrant new role in many aspects of healthcare.”

WorldCare, founded in 1992, is dedicated to providing affordable, high-quality healthcare solutions around the world through the use of advanced telecommunications technology and access to the WorldCare Consortium of medical centers. Through its global telemedicine network, WorldCare offers a consortium of healthcare services, including medical second opinions, clinical trial data management, medical telesymposia, local/regional telemedicine networks and healthcare consulting and management.