



# Remote Computing: Client Benefit or Technically Possible

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To determine if wireless computers offer any advantage to office Desktop computers:

- To access the client's medical record.
- Increase productivity of the service provides.
- Increased benefit to the client.



# Promised Potential Benefits of Wireless Computing

- Access the client records.
- Increased Client Participation.
- Timely Communication.
- Reduction in Clinical Errors.
- Increase service provider productivity.



- 24 Service Providers randomly assigned to two groups.
- Four teams & 4 disciplines.
- Group 1 Wireless computers for 8wks.
- Group 2 Desktop computers for 8 wks.
- Groups were Switched.



# Data Collected

- Clinician Number
- Group and Team
- Discipline
- Date & time
- Hours elapsed between client and data entry
- Type of Computer used
- Connection & Reason for no con.
- Street and Suburb
- Lost of Connection, & Speed



Frequency counts on all of the above, plus frequency counts on combinations of the above, some entailing four nested conditional statements, “If” statements.



The description of the two different methods on communication, one wireless from the field and the other landline from the office was configured 67 different ways, with numerous compound subparts.

The conclusion of remote wireless computer communication – Yes, possible.



# So What.

None of the potential benefits where designed into the study from the very beginning:

- Was the clients record consulted or just another text note added?
- How did the client participate?
- Was timely communication necessary, or the communication occurred in another format?
- Where client errors reduced?
- Has the Service Providers productivity increased?



## Other Questions

- “Health providers may be an increasingly attractive target for well-organised identity thieves (The Australian, May 13, 2008)”  
Just call Rock Phish for wireless interception.
- Client privacy has not be established - not ever by crude encryption.



# Conclusion

This project, through no fault of the project officers, was poorly conceived from the very beginning. Naturally another project will not be in the offering.

Yes, remote wireless computing is possible.



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