



POSITION STATEMENT

PRIVACY AND SECURITY FOR WIRELESS TECHNOLOGIES IN HEALTH CARE

*Adopted by the IEEE-USA
Board of Directors, 24 June 2011*

IEEE-USA believes that the expanded use of wireless technologies in health care applications can provide significant benefits in terms of cost effectiveness, patient safety, and improvement in quality of care. In particular, patients may benefit from the increased independence and mobility provided by wireless-enabled technologies such as home health care and remote monitoring. However, implementing “next generation” wireless in this challenging environment requires a clear definition of “medical grade wireless.”

In support of this goal, IEEE-USA recommends the following:

- Federal agencies with an interest in the health care applications of wireless technologies, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Federal Communications Commission, should work together, and with standards organizations like IEEE, and other interested parties to set appropriate standards and to provide clear and unambiguous definitions of quality of service, reliability, privacy and security, spectrum allocation, and interoperability, as they apply to specific uses of medical grade wireless.
- Health care organizations, including Health Level 7, the Health care Information and Management Systems Society, and Integrating the Health care Enterprise, should provide clear use case definitions of the use of wireless in both the clinical environment and the home health care environment, and integrate these definitions into their profiles and standards.
- The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations and similar organizations involved in the accreditation of health care facilities should develop criteria for evaluation and licensure of wireless networks in their accreditation reviews.
- Government agencies, including Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, and the Veterans Administration, should work together to achieve a common interoperable system across a wide spectrum of health care related wireless services for veterans and active military personnel.

- The Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Homeland Security, and similar organizations involved in emergency response and notification, should work with the technical standards organizations to ensure that reliable, secure, and interoperable wireless communications will be available during emergency situations.

This statement was developed by the IEEE-USA Medical Technology Policy Committee and represents the considered judgment of a group of U.S. IEEE members with expertise in the subject field. IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public-policy interests of the more than 210,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. The positions taken by IEEE-USA do not necessarily reflect the views of the IEEE or its other organizational units.