

SINGING RIVER HOSPITAL

A member of Singing River Hospital System

September 6, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
SEP 11 2000
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Ultra-Wideband
ET Docket 98-153

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing to you in response to the FCC's notice of proposed Rule Making on Ultra-Wideband Radio. I am a Urologist in private practice in Pascagoula, MS. I also serve as the Chief of Staff for Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula, MS. I am a member of the Board of Trustees for Singing River Hospital System. We are a non-profit, public hospital system. We provide a complete range of medical services, with the exception of transplants, burns, and complex pediatric care, for our community and the surrounding region. I am writing to request that Ultra-Wideband Radio technology be allowed to go forward. I believe that there are many benefits that would accrue by allowing the use of this new technology.

I can foresee a multitude of medical uses for this technology. Patients could have a device incorporating this technology placed on their person whenever they are admitted to the hospital. This device could continuously transmit data to allow the patients vital signs such as heart rate and rhythm, to be monitored. Nursing personnel would immediately be aware of any change in the patient's well-being. The inherent tracking ability would allow for timely and precise location of the patient should they experience a sudden change in their status. This would give the physicians responding to "codes" (a situation in which the patient has experienced a life-threatening change in their status) the exact location of the patient. The technology could be useful in preventing newborn or child abductions from the hospital. Nursing homes could place a device on their residents to prevent them from wandering away from the nursing facilities. It could be used to discriminate among personnel at hospitals and allow only persons with authorization to enter sensitive areas. Visitors could be issued a device that would keep them from entering designated areas.

Physicians must assimilate vast amounts of data in the care of patients. All physicians encounter delays in obtaining this patient data on a daily basis. With the Ultra-Wideband Radio technology, doctors could have wireless devices that would allow them to have all of the necessary information accessible while at the patient's bedside or in the examination room. This would save countless hours of time lost by physicians and other personnel tracking down patient information. Many times laboratory or X-ray tests are repeated because the results are not readily available. Duplication of testing would be unnecessary or at least or markedly decreased with the new technology. Healthcare costs have been rising every year. This technology would allow for healthcare workers to work more efficiently. Nurses would be able to spend more time with the patients and less time with paperwork.

One area of medicine that is growing at a fast rate is medical imaging. New modalities are being developed to allow better diagnosis and treatment of patients. All of these techniques require that vast amounts of data be transmitted from the imaging device to the viewing device. This technology could speed up this process

No. of Copies rec'd 014
List A B C D E

SINGING RIVER HOSPITAL

A member of Singing River Hospital System

immensely. Physicians could have access to the images while examining the patient without having to track down the x-rays.

Trauma victims could be assessed in real-time by physicians at hospital emergency rooms. This would allow for better pre-hospital care of the patients and allow the hospital to be better prepared when the victims arrive. Physicians could monitor patients at home with serious medical problems. If the patient's condition changes, the physician could make adjustments in their treatment regimen or if they are having serious difficulties, send them to the hospital. As this technology becomes available many other uses will be discovered.

I would ask that the FCC move quickly with a decision to allow this new and beneficial technology to be implemented. As I outlined above, I believe it will make a very positive difference in patient care. Please call me for any questions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Lyell, MD, FACS
Chief of Staff, Singing River Hospital