



County of San Joaquin Health Care Services Information Technology Projects



Current Manual Prescription Delivery System
San Joaquin General Hospital

San Joaquin County, California
December 2004

County of San Joaquin Health Care Services – San Joaquin General Hospital Information Technology Projects

<u>Priority Order</u>	<u>Project Requests</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1.	Remote Medical Interpreter System	\$ 657,669
2.	Automated Drug Dispensing and Medication Administration System	\$ 650,000
3.	Archive and Communications System (ACS)	\$ 850,000
4.	Radiology, Pathology, and Cardiology Transcription System	\$ 250,000
5.	Clinical Data Repository	\$ 375,000

Overview

Health Information Technology

The 1999 Institute of Medicine’s report, *To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System*, provides evidence that nearly 100,000 hospital patients die annually from medical mistakes that are preventable.

The use of Health Information Technology (HIT) will provide direct and indirect benefits to improve the clinical outcomes, safety and quality of care for San Joaquin General Hospital patients. These projects provide timely diagnostic and treatment information to support more informed clinician decision-making.

In addition to the clinical improvements, significant economic savings would be obtained for San Joaquin General Hospital by increasing its use of health information technology. The Leapfrog Group’s 2001 report, *Economic Implications of the Leapfrog Safety Standards*, estimated that by implementing Computer Physician Order Entry systems, hospitals can save from \$180,00 to \$900,000 per year, depending on hospital size. These savings result from fewer medication errors and adverse drug events (ADEs). However, even greater savings would result from reduced resource utilization, e.g., shorter lengths-of-stay, lower cost medication use, reduced laboratory testing and imaging, increased use of clinical pathways, and gains in clinicians efficiency.

San Joaquin County Health Care Services

San Joaquin County's Department of Health Care Services is the safety-net provider for the community. At present, to maintain current information systems in all departmental areas, the annual expenditures total approximately \$4.5 to \$4.8 million. Operating budgets have very limited capacity to fund major improvements and changes. In 1997, a review by a consultant estimated an investment of more than \$12 million was needed to improve information technology services for San Joaquin General Hospital, one of the divisions of Health Care Services. As the list of unfunded projects grows, the County's Health Care data infrastructure becomes less efficient in processing and treating patients, maintaining accounts, and assuring appropriate revenue tracking. Federal assistance towards technology improvements would help maintain the viability of San Joaquin County's Department of Health Care Services as a cost-effective safety-net provider. The Health Care Services Information Technology projects will allow San Joaquin General Hospital to fully utilize Health Information Technology to improve patient safety and quality of care as well as utilize scarce medical resources more efficiently.

Health Care Services - Information Technology

The five health care technology projects are presented in priority order as Project Fact Sheets on pages three through eleven.

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