

Groblersdal hospital benefits from revitalization.

Groblersdal hospital is presently benefiting from various projects aiming at improving service delivery to all the people of the area. The building of new structures at the hospital is a very visible aspect of the total revitalization efforts that is presently being driven by the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Zandie Mabindisa and the hospital management team.

A less visible area is the financial/logistical and information technology revitalization the hospital is presently undergoing. During April this year the hospital implemented the principles of cost center accounting and management. The aim of this project is to decentralize financial accountability and authority to all levels (cost centers) in the hospital in an open and transparent environment. This exiting project will ensure that nursing staff is also involved with budgeting and expenditure issues in the hospital.

An even less visible event is the installation of a wireless computer network at the hospital. This entails that all the buildings and computer users are connected via a state of the art wireless network. This hospital is one of the first hospitals nationally to benefit from this modern technology.

The vision is to enable nursing staff in the wards to access patient and financial data from even a laptop, whilst standing next to the patient's bed. This kind of application might also form the platform for a future paperless environment in which all health technology equipment will be connected to a central server, recording and providing information to health agents and assist with the generation of revenue.

This innovative thinking is the result of requirements to deploy a high technology network infrastructure at various hospitals before the April 2006 deadline, the new financial year. This will enable the implementation of decentralized financial management and cost center accounting/management ideals. The decentralization of information technology and financial management will empower hospital staff at all levels to contribute in an environment conducive to informed participative management

The "wireless" project also enhances our "telemedicine" project, aimed at providing high technology health care in rural areas. It will be possible to deploy computer networks with relative ease without the requirements of stationary network cabling.

And for those who wondered, no you cannot receive your favorite radio station with the "wireless" application.