

Two Portland hospitals now offering family internet service

Families of patients in two Portland-area Providence Health System hospitals now have a unique service to access while visiting their loved ones. Newly installed Internet terminals at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center and Providence Portland Medical Center will enable people to remotely check their e-mail, surf the Internet, or connect to Microsoft office applications, such as Word, Excel, and Powerpoint. There is a minimal charge for the service.

"Families spend a lot of time in hospitals waiting for their loved ones to undergo various medical procedures and sometimes need a break from sitting with loved ones who are critically ill or hospitalized," said Michael Dahlen, RN, Information Services Customer Service Manager for Providence

Health System. "We want to make what can be a stressful and lonely time a little more bearable for families utilizing our hospitals."

Two Internet terminals are available for public use in the West Pavilion lobby of Providence St. Vincent and another is stationed at the hospital's Travis & Beverly Cross Guest Housing Center. Providence Portland Medical Center has one terminal located in the lobby of its main hospital.

The two hospitals are the only health care facilities in Oregon that offer such Internet access to the public.

"It's a great service," said Vicky Fisher of Clatskanie, who went online about an hour every day for two weeks at Providence St. Vincent while waiting for her daughter, to

complete outpatient treatment this past summer. "The system is self-explanatory and very easy to use. It enabled me to correspond with family members about how Jamie was doing and took my mind off what she was going through."

People wanting to check their e-mail, work on a document, or scan the Internet can use Visa or Mastercard to access those programs. The cost is \$2.95 for the first half-hour, and increases in approximately \$2 increments after that, depending on the amount of time the computer is used.

There are a variety of computer applications from which to choose. Special software ensures that people's visits and credit information are not recorded anywhere in the computer terminal or on a central server. Special filtering soft-

ware blocks access to Web sites that are not consistent with Providence Health System's mission and values.



Mark and Sunshine Bryan of Rainier were happy to win this playhouse for their daughter, Sidney, who will enjoy many hours of fun in her new playhouse. The playhouse raffle was a fund raiser for Columbia County Habitat for Humanity.

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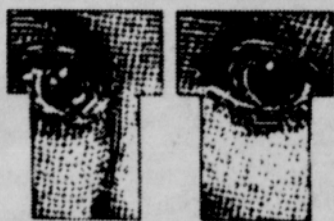
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