

Rehabilitation and Assistive-Technology Products

Health Hero Network Health Buddy system for collecting and transmitting patient data, manufactured by Health Hero Network Inc. (Mountain View, CA). Entry submitted by IDEO Product Development (Palo Alto, CA). The Health Hero Network Health Buddy system uses Internet technology to enable physicians to monitor changes in their patients' health. The system combines a device for patients to report health information with a patient database that physicians access using a Web browser. The patient system consists of a backlit LCD screen, a built-in modem, a simple screen interface, and a built-in serial port for connecting health-monitoring devices such as glucose meters, weight scales, and blood pressure meters. At periodic intervals the system asks patients a series of questions about their medication, state of well-being, and eating habits, and then sends the patients' responses to a service center for evaluation. The initial target population for the Health Buddy system includes patients with heart failure, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, and advanced-stage renal failure. Supply and design credit to IDEO Product Development.