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HOSPITAL

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101 Sivley Road • Huntsville, Alabama 35801 • 205/517-8020

February 5, 1996

Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear FCC Secretary:

I am writing in support of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to establish clear radio channels for ECG telemetry monitoring. Huntsville Hospital is a 900 bed hospital facility in North Alabama that has extensive telemetry monitoring capabilities.

We have extensive monitoring capabilities to support an extremely active cardiovascular service and in fact, we have some 120 plus units. Our ability to monitor essential life parameters of these patients is absolutely critical in assuring the delivery of effective life saving therapies.

Due to market demands for telemetry channels, we routinely have overriding frequency interference which completely aborts our ability to monitor essential patient parameters. On many occasions, we have completely lost patient telemetry signals due to band interference. We think the FCC is wise in designating the use of upper VHF and UHF channels for the transmission of medical telemetry signals. This will help alleviate the extreme hazard to which our patients are subjected. We feel the FCC's wisdom in granting these channels for medical use will greatly stabilize the situation and enhance patient safety. We would strongly urge your positive consideration of this matter and would be happy to provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Edward McCracken  
Vice President of Patient Care Services

EM:psv

cc: Ms. Elisabeth George  
Hewlett Packard Regulatory Affairs

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