

# Physician specialist outreach to remote hospital reduces patient transfers

Michigan Orthopedic Specialty Hospital (MIOSH), is located 30 minutes from the Detroit Medical Center (DMC) main campus. As an orthopedic specialty hospital MIOSH is not staffed with the same broad set of specialists available at the downtown campus, consequently patients with critical or near critical complications pose a dilemma: to keep the patient under the close scrutiny of the orthopedic surgeon or to transfer the patient to a downtown specialist removing the orthopedic surgeon from the care team. In either case there is discontinuity and sub-optimal care.

To meet this need the DMC has installed a Remote Presence Robot at MIOSH which can be accessed through ControlStations located on the DMC downtown campus. Dr. Joseph Bander, an intensivist and Chief of Critical Care Services for the DMC, uses this technology to provide intensivist specialty supervision to MIOSH patients from his office or home.



## BENEFITS OF REMOTE PRESENCE

- Intensivist led ICU care
- Reduce clinical risk
- Improve hospital revenue
- Improve patient and family satisfaction

“A patient at The Michigan Orthopedic Hospital underwent hip surgery for an extensive infection. Surgery was prolonged and difficult. She had ventricular dysrhythmia and extensive blood loss. Using the Robot I was able to visually assess the patient remotely and round with the ICU nurses several times throughout the day. I was also able to discuss the patient needs with the anesthesiologist and the orthopedist who were both on site. Through our combined attention the patient did very well and did not require transferring. On post-op day 3 she was transferred from the ICU to the regular floor where she had an excellent recovery.

**Using the Robot the MIOSH patient received the right specialist care at the right time enabling the hospital to keep the patient and maintain continuity of care. On a side note, the patient was remarkably interactive with me through the Robot interface. I continue to be amazed at how well this technology is received by patients.**” – Joseph Bander, MD



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