Connect-2-Tomorrow: Internet Access and Email in a Children’s Hospital

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Abstract: The Connect-2-Tomorrow project is a federally funded grant which utilizes Internet connectivity to provide children receiving care at University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) the opportunity to continue their education and maintain contact with peers, teachers, family members and newly assigned keypals. The Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is working to ensure that along with the medicine that heals the physical body we not forget about the healing of the mind and heart. Patients within the hospital have the opportunity to email classmates, “meet” new friends through a keypal program and participate in their classrooms using video conferencing equipment. In addition, problems and solutions regarding confidentiality and firewall protection to provide access for a multi-platform system will be presented in this poster demonstration.