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### Volunteers in medicine

# Wireless connection at clinic gives quicker access to test results

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A high-speed connection at the Volunteers in Medicine clinic provides instant access to patient's lab results and X-rays.

The new wireless connection allows qualified staff to pull up patient results from the Bloomington Hospital for review. The service also means a more timely response for the patients, said VIM executive director Elizabeth Sturgeon.

The move marks a step closer to a paperless system.

"That is the goal, to put all of the information in a repository, everything you need for a patient," Sturgeon said Friday.

The E-Health information exchange pilot project was launched in September, Sturgeon said.

Bloomington joined forces with the Bloomington E-Health Collaborative, Bloomington Hospital, Smithville Digital LLC and Indiana University in helping out by allowing the use of fiber from its optic ring in downtown Bloomington at no cost, Mayor Mark Kruzan announced in late October.

The BEHC was involved in installing fiber optic cable at the clinic to allow for much faster data exchange than traditional copper wiring in communications lines.

Smithville Digital LLC is providing free Internet bandwidth to the BEHC and the clinic, along with networking equipment and technical support. Indiana University is providing engineering assistance and operational support as needed for the project — but that hasn't been needed yet, Sturgeon said.

Since starting in September, the service has had no problems.

Bloomington Hospital owns the building housing the VIM clinic at 333 E. Miller Drive. It is also providing financial and implementation support for clinical messaging.

The Volunteers in Medicine clinic ([www.vimmonroecounty.org](http://www.vimmonroecounty.org)) provides free primary and preventive medical care to residents of Monroe and Owen counties who lack health insurance and the ability to pay for such services.

The community-operated clinic is modeled on a national program.

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