

## Cloud-Based ECG Enables Cardiac Care for Remote Populations Empowering Physicians to Provide Better Care to More Patients

Jamaica faces many of the same challenges as other regions with widespread rural populations. A limited number of clinicians, operating out of a limited number of facilities, struggle to provide optimal care to remote patients. Over the past two decades, the Heart Institute of the Caribbean (HIC) has pioneered efforts to address this challenge in Jamaica. Today, HIC serves nearly 20,000 patients per year, and is recognized as the leading center of excellence for cardiac care for the entire Caribbean region.

Since its founding in 2005, HIC has developed the only free standing Heart Hospital in the English speaking Caribbean, brought a number of cardiology services to Jamaica that had not previously been available and expanded access to many cardiovascular services, such as nuclear myocardial perfusion imaging, exercise and pharmacologic stress echocardiography, myocardial contrast imaging, ambulatory monitoring, interventional cardiology services, cardiac electrophysiology, device placement and private cardiovascular surgery program. Under the guidance of its founder, cardiologist Dr. Ernest Madu, HIC maintains a focus on new technologies that empower physicians to provide better care to more patients while improving access to high quality cardiovascular care. This focus led HIC to adopt electronic medical records even before many US healthcare facilities did so. More recently, this forward-thinking approach has brought cloud-based ECG to Jamaica.



QT Medical's innovative new PCA 500™ system is an ideal means to enhance cardiac care for a remote patient population. The components of the system – the PCA 500 recorder and QHeart™ sensor – can be easily shipped to remote patients. A unique design has earned this system FDA clearance as the world's only medical grade 12-lead ECG system that can be used by lay

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people without any clinical training. Simple instructions inform patients on how to apply the QHeart sensor, which then plugs easily into the PCA 500 recorder. A single on/off button activates the recorder and ECG readings are immediately uploaded to a HIPAA compliant cloud-based platform. Instead of waiting for hours or even days for the paper copy of an ECG to reach them, Dr. Madu and his team of Cardiologists can

now read digital copies shortly after they are recorded miles away.

“The key advantages of the PCA 500 system,” Dr. Madu said, “are the ease of use, even by people with no clinical training, as well as instant remote access to ECG readings performed at remote locations.”

Since HIC maintains a policy that all patients coming to see a cardiologist must receive an ECG, the PCA 500 system makes it easy to collect these readings. By contrast, the large size of traditional ECG devices, the recurring cost of recording papers and the technical training required, present significant obstacles to serving a remote population. Streamlining the means of care with an easy-to-use cloud-based option aligns with HIC’s focus on adopting technology that empowers physicians to provide better care to more patients.

The founder of QT Medical, Dr. Ruey-Kang Chang, said, “We are honored to support Dr. Madu’s mission in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. What makes the Heart Institute of the Caribbean unique is not just its proven ability to improve cardiac care to a previously underserved patient population, but also its commitment to driving innovation. New technology and new ideas are adopted eagerly, setting new standards of care that many US facilities often lack the agility to embrace so readily.”

