

19

6. A system according to claim 1 that incorporates around the ML a unique security architecture.

7. A system according to claim 1 that incorporates an unique security architecture around the PCS and PDA.

8. A system according to claim 1 that contains a secure user's signature pen (utilized in association with the PDA) that contains a digitized compressed data replica of the user's signature to be used to verify that the user is an authorized user of the system.

9. A system according to claim 1 that has been programmed to audit user access to all the archived electronic health records contained in the ML.

10. A system according to claim 1 wherein the data is passed to and from the master library by means selected from the group comprising DBS, fiber optic, twisted pair, co-axial cable or wireless communication.

11. A system according to claim 1 wherein the master library is provided with means to receive and store, in digitally compressed form, data from one or more of the following:

- (a) physicians offices;
- (b) clinics and laboratories;
- (c) video entertainment libraries;
- (d) electronic medical libraries;
- (e) hospital security, patient and operating room monitoring information
- (f) patient's residences.

12. A system according to claim 11 further comprising one or more decompression means associated with the master library to provide access to the information stored therein by suitably decompressing the compressed data for viewing.

13. A system according to claim 1 wherein the patient care station is further provided with internal memory means for storage of data in digitally compressed form that has been downloaded from either the nursing station server system or the ML.

14. A system according to claim 13 wherein the client computer of the patient care station is programmed to provide an interactive menu for the selection of services comprising:

20

- (a) meal selection,
- (b) selection of electronic entertainment and information packages selected from the group comprising regular TV programming, movie videos on demand, video games, educational information, clinical data and administrative data;
- (c) and third party oriented services selected from the group comprising florist, giftshop, chaplain, physiotherapist.

15. A system according to claim 1 wherein the patient care station is further interfaced with an external pen based computer or PDA which has the integral electronic means for reading smart health card patient information and for documenting medical diagnosis results.

16. A system according to claim 15 wherein the integral electronic means is a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) smart card reader/writer.

17. A system according to claim 1 comprising a plurality of nursing stations, with one or more patient care stations being electronically associated with each said nursing station.

18. A system according to claim 17 wherein each patient care station is provided with a unique addressable identification code ensuring a one to one correspondence between a patient's bed location and the master library which manages these codes.

19. A system according to claim 18 wherein the PCS incorporates a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) reader/writer(s) pluggable module to receive, read and write a smart health card unique to the corresponding patient, and to facilitate optional features such as extra memory, FAX/modems, special LAN interfaces, and user personality cards.

* * * * *