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## U.K. officials study MCHD data bank

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Efforts to build an \$11 billion medical data management program prompted a group of medical professionals from the United Kingdom to cross the Atlantic to Conroe.

The Montgomery County Hospital District recently showed off their medical technology to the professionals, allowing them to collect ideas for what they said will be the largest such civil project in the world, serving 8 million people.

"We've seen a great use of world class technology in Emergency Medical Service here," said Patrick Gormley, account director for the United Kingdom office of Computer Services Corporation. The company handles all patient information and billing for emergency medical services for Great Britain and Northern

Ireland.

Gormley said his company is planning a massive overhaul of its emergency medical systems for increased efficiency and effectiveness.

He plans to take the knowledge the group gained in Conroe and use it toward a new data management program that will improve patient care. The company makes 2.5 million ambulance calls per year.

The group of 12 was brought to MCHD through the district's working relationship with Zoll Data Systems of Colorado. During their visit they observed the benefits of MCHD's respect for technology and ability to avoid paperwork as much as possible.

Zoll has provided MCHD with the ability to electronically process all information, which decreases inaccuracy and increases the timeliness

for paying bills.

"MCHD has always been on the cutting edge of technology use," said Bob Durkin of Zoll, stressing that this edge is what made them a model for the \$11 billion project.

Montgomery County Hospital District EMS director Allen Johnson said starting early has been the key to the district's success.

"Early on, we recognized the importance of data management in the role of emergency medical services. Our vision was to marry all the operations, reporting, and clinical analysis," Johnson said in a released statement.

Johnson said he was humbled by the visit. "It is amazing that they would want to take something we are doing on a relatively small level and implement it across an entire country.

"But it also makes us feel good



A group of medical professionals from the United Kingdom after a tour of the Montgomery County Hospital District Medical Service technology. The group is hoping to start a data management program using MCHD as an example.

that we are utilizing the best practices possible."

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