



Hot jobs 2011: Health IT expert

by Emily Mullin , Staff
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Everything is going mobile. Even your health care.

With Johns Hopkins Medicine and University of Maryland Medical Center leading a dominant health care industry in Greater Baltimore, it comes as no surprise that some of the area's hottest jobs are in health care.

More hospitals and physician practices are going high-tech as they replace cumbersome paper medical records with electronic records, so there will be an increased need for IT experts in the region's health care field.

The federal health care reform law is spurring growth in this sector, too, by offering financial incentives to hospitals and physicians that purchase electronic record-keeping devices. Those systems have to be developed by computer scientists, engineers and software developers with a special knowledge in health care.

One local company that's actively hiring health IT experts is Global CI, which provides health IT services to agencies like the Social Security Administration and Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, which are some of the government's biggest users of electronic medical records.

CEO Mike Ziman said the company has 70 to 75 job openings for health IT experts who have experience in infrastructure support and informatics. The company is also looking for people who have experience in usability, which deals with how different individuals interact with various computer systems.

Not only is technology making it easier to store and share information among hospitals and physicians but it's helping people manage their own health better, too.

New start-up companies are sprouting up to take advantage of how technology can be used to keep people healthy and manage chronic diseases.

Take Baltimore's WellDoc. The company tripled its staff — from 25 to 75 in 2010. WellDoc, a health technology company, has developed a diabetes management system for patients. The company is looking for technologists and software developers to do things like create health-related iPhone applications.

"If you look at the trend lines for government money for electronic health records, there is a coming wave of businesses that are about to hit," said Chris Bergman, WellDoc's chief strategy and commercial development officer.