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FDA Approves Intel Home-Care Tools

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Intel Corp. said it passed its first review by the Food and Drug Administration, a step in delivering a new system for aiding the home care of patients with chronic conditions.

The chip maker said it received FDA clearance for Intel Health Guide, a set of technologies that includes a special-purpose touchscreen computer. The system is to be attached to medical devices, including blood-pressure monitors, glucose meters and weight scales, to gather data that is sent over the Internet to medical professionals.

Louis Burns, an Intel vice president, acknowledged that others already offer devices for remote patient monitoring, but he said Intel's approach of closely involving patients in their own care is unusual.

The goal is to help medical and insurance companies save money by shifting more health-care chores associated with an aging population to homes and out of hospitals, Mr. Burns added.

Intel has conducted pilot tests of the system and will start broader testing in the third quarter, with availability in the U.S. and the U.K. expected late this year or early in 2009. Pricing has not been set, Mr. Burns said.