

Desperately Seeking Smart Cards

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The Department of Defense issued a request for proposals (RFP) for a personal identification card that can be used in conjunction with systemwide computer-based patient records system. Currently, most chip-based smart cards hold eight to 16 kilobytes, but the department is looking for a card capable of holding 32 kilobytes of data. The card will be used to access and enter basic clinical data in a combat zone. When the patient is transferred to an established medical facility, the computerized record can be updated with data entered directly into the card. The RFP was published in *Commerce Business Daily*, located at <http://cbdnet.access.gpo.gov>.

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