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Technologies that help health care organizations form the backbone of their information networks are the top technologies used, according to the 17th Annual HIMSS Leadership Survey. More than 200 senior information technology (IT) executives responded to the survey sponsored by ACS Healthcare

inition, document imaging and handheld personal digital assistants (PDAs).

The use of several technologies are expected to increase substantially within the next two years. The largest growth rate is projected in the single sign-on market—one-quarter of respondents reported that this technology is installed at their health care organization. In two years, 79 percent of respondents project that their organization will use single sign-on technology. Other areas that show a large increase in use include RFID technology, speech recognition, automated alerts for clinicians, and voice-over IP (VoIP) technology.

nologies that respondents indicated would be installed in the next two years—each was selected by 30 percent of respondents.

The high level of implementation of high-speed and wireless networks and intranets points to hospitals' strategic focus on efficiently moving data within their environments and to the point-of-service. The high use of computers on wheels also supports point of service activities, while interface engines help transport data between disparate applications, and client-server architectures provide scalable processing power at an affordable rate (even though the support costs are usually increased). The technology focus for the next few years manifests the need to integrate disparate environments (single sign-on/identity management), improve material management and patient safety (bar coding), reduction of operating costs (voice recognition related to transcription processing), eliminating paper to improve information management (document imaging), and a continued focus on point-of-service capabilities (handheld personal digital assistants). RFID technologies will be initially implemented to support patient/asset tracking rather than to support materials management.

Full data from the 17th Annual HIMSS Leadership Survey can be found on the HIMSS Web site ([www.himss.org](http://www.himss.org)). **MMHC**

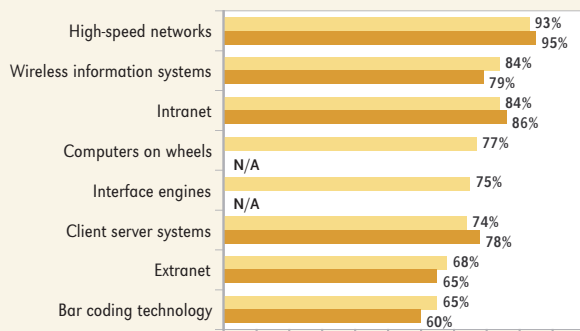
## Technology implementation part of hospitals' strategic focus

Solutions, Dallas. Almost all of the respondents reported that their organization had a high-speed network in place. Wireless information systems and intranets were also selected by 85 percent of respondents.

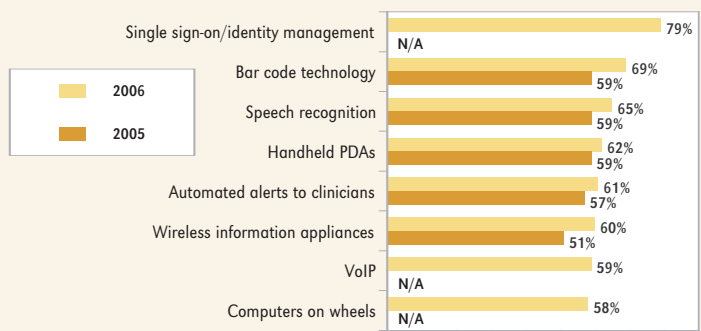
Respondents also were asked to identify the technologies they would like to implement in the next two years. The top five chosen were single sign-on/identity management, bar coding, speech recog-

While respondents project that RFID will substantially increase in the near future, other technologies that have not extensively penetrated the market are not projected to see a similar level of growth. Natural language processing and CCOW (visual integration) are each installed at fewer than 20 percent of the respondents' health care organizations. These technologies are at the bottom of the list of tech-

### Current use of IT



### Technology adoption (next two years)



Source: Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society's 17th Annual Leadership Survey, 2006