Photo: RF Technologies

Nurse-call systems

Snapshot

Average price per resident per room: Varies from about $500 to $2,000

Pricing Trends	2014-2015: +3%	2015-2016: +2% to 3%	2016-2017: +2%

Typical delivery time: 1 to 2 weeks

Typical delivery charges:
Varies widely; must inquire

Average life span of product:
7 to 12 years

Installation: Due to varying complexity, certified helpers might be needed.

Average maintenance costs per year: Software upgrades and maintenance are the main concerns, so obtain specifics on them up front.

Buyers Notes

• With UL 2560 specifications hitting more states, make sure your system can meet these specifications in the future. Expanded application appears to be a foregone conclusion and you don't want to have to shop for another new system in five years.

• You must get a clear understanding of any system's compatibility in your environment. This goes for Wi-Fi, wireless and bandwidth issues.

• Learn how any system will be able to link and become interoperable with other systems in your facility(ies). What reports can be merged and analyzed?

"With today's technology, it should be able to integrate with phones. Then you can go wherever you want to go and be able to receive notification and call for assistance if you need it. Look to have it integrated with your phones and computer system."

— Peg Stockel, MBA, NHA, Administrator, Stonehill Franciscan Services, Dubuque, IA

(Figures cited are averages of all respondents' answers. Actual pricing will vary due to volume, bundling and other factors of a purchase.)
Sources: *Austco, Cornell, Heritage MedCall, Jeron, Philips Lifeline, Momentum Healthware, ProtectAlert, RF Technologies, Stanley Healthcare Solutions, Status Solutions, Silversphere,*