In 2008, AvaSure deployed the TeleSitter in its first U.S. hospital. The AvaSure TeleSitter is a continuous virtual care solution deployed for patients at higher risk of hurting themselves or their caregivers. Before AvaSure, hospitals deployed one-to-one nurse assistants to keep patients safe. Now in use across the U.S., the TeleSitter has helped to address the falls problem and now goes far beyond the initial application to solve a wide range of patient safety, quality, and workflow challenges.

WHAT IS TELESITTING?
TeleSitting is an evidence-based, data-driven, and cost-efficient means of connecting caregivers more closely with patients and families while improving the quality of care delivered. It provides real-time, continuous video surveillance of multiple patients simultaneously from a remote station which, when combined with two-way audio, allows for immediate intervention in time to prevent harm to patients and/or staff. If the patient tries to do something they shouldn’t—such as get out of bed without assistance—the trained monitor staff will intervene, saying, “Please do not get up by yourself, Mr. Jones. I’m going to get somebody to help you.”

HOW DOES IT WORK?
The technology is made up of mobile or fixed room devices with 360-degree pan, tilt, zoom cameras, allowing the monitor staff to see anywhere in the room, including fine details such as whether or not a pulse-oximeter is still attached. There is also an infrared illuminator to provide night viewing. If the patient is unresponsive to verbal direction, there is a distinctive and loud Stat Alarm on the room device that sends nurses running to the patient’s room.

If it were only about technology, however, AvaSure wouldn’t be such a powerful intervention. The solution is centered around a clinical program designed and led by AvaSure’s team of RNs, who work with hospitals to create policies, procedures, and protocols that ensure reliable identification of patients who require watching, consistent patient monitoring criteria, comprehensive onsite training, and accurate data collection. The clinical team applies best practices developed over years from hundreds of deployments to ensure success and follow-up over time.

The AvaSure software includes data reporting capabilities tracked by a real-time dashboard, so program administrators can log in and see program metrics, such as how many room devices are in use and the number of verbal redirections and Stat Alarms per day, providing a window into the acuity of the patient population.

ORNA, our Online Reporting of Nursing Analytics database, has comparative data from millions of hours of video monitoring, enabling a hospital to run comparisons on utilization, alarm rates, monitor staff interventions, effectiveness of monitor staff interventions, and bedside staff responsiveness.
WHY DO HOSPITALS INVEST IN AVASURE?
Hospitals invest in AvaSure because it works; our clients—which include six of the top seven U.S. News Honor Roll hospitals and 16 of the 20 largest health systems—have produced more than three dozen published reports and presentations showing dramatic reductions in falls and sitter costs, among other results. Hospitals are reporting that AvaSure has been successfully reducing composite fall rates by more than 50% while nearly eliminating falls with major injury. In addition, many hospitals report saving millions annually on sitter costs which are rising every year despite the overwhelming lack of evidence supporting their effectiveness.

WHAT IS AVASURE BEING USED FOR BESIDES FALLS AND SITTER COSTS?
Organizations are using AvaSure to protect staff from violent patients and visitors, to stop elopements, take pressure off nursing resources and improve patient throughput in the emergency department and reduce costs. A major use of AvaSure is now used for behavioral health patients, ensuring the safety of patients and staff for substance use disorder, and lower-risk suicide ideation. AvaSure monitor staff have also prevented patients from eating prior to surgery, stopped the sale and use of illegal drugs, and saved the lives of patients who had stopped breathing.

To learn more visit www.avasure.com. To speak to an AvaSure representative contact 800.736.1784 or email info@avasure.com.