

Business

Page edited by Randi Kallas, kallas@postbulletin.com

HEALTH

Best Buy thinking medical tech

By Jeff Hansel

jhansel@postbulletin.com • (507) 285-7615

Best Buy has become the “founding consortium member” in Mayo Clinic’s Healthy Aging and Independent Living Lab, Mayo Clinic CEO Dr. John Noseworthy announced Monday.

“Best Buy is the founding member of that consortium with a generous grant,” Noseworthy told more than 500 people at the Mayo Center for Innovation Transform 2011 symposium in Rochester.

Mayo did not disclose the dollar amount of the Best Buy funding and Best Buy officials were not available after hours Monday.

Best Buy already offers devices that connect patients with health providers for real-time medical-data download, including blood pressure monitors, pedometers and fitness

watches. They’re the type of devices that help patients avoid trips to the doctor’s office. Expect offerings to branch out from there, tested first at Mayo’s Rochester HAIL lab.

The HAIL laboratory is a collaboration between the Mayo Center for Innovation, the Mayo Robert and Arlene Kogod Center for Aging and the Rochester retirement community known as Charter House, which is operated by Mayo Clinic. The HAIL lab is housed within Charter House and aims to find ways to help seniors remain at home, healthy and independent.

According to Mayo, Best Buy “is already expanding its portfolio of health-related retail

Aging in America

According to a U.S. Census Bureau estimate, nearly 18 percent of the U.S. population (17.9 percent) will be 65 or older by 2025.

offerings.”

Mayo called the Best Buy involvement “a natural extension of other investments the company has made in the health and wellness technologies arena.” Brad Anderson, the former CEO of Best Buy, sits on Mayo’s board of trustees.

“We believe technology has the potential to foster healthy, productive lives by enabling easier access to information and medical care,” said Kurt Hulander, Best Buy’s senior director of health platforms. “Our partnership with Mayo Clinic will help us better understand the full potential for health technologies with patients who need them most.”