

Vendor News

Agfa HealthCare Delivers Physician Portals at Three Ontario Hospitals

Agfa HealthCare Canada recently announced that it is the exclusive Canadian distributor for MEDSEEK's solutions and will develop physician web portals for the Credit Valley Hospital and Scarborough General and Scarborough Grace hospitals. Building on the success of installations at Hamilton Health Sciences, William Osler Health Centre and Halton Healthcare Services, Agfa's new IMPAX Clinical Dashboard solution (powered by MEDSEEK) enables easy and efficient access to the information physicians need from virtually anywhere.

Agfa's IMPAX Clinical Dashboard product provides physicians with a personalized, convenient and secure way to access and view patient information online. Unlike traditional portal offerings, Agfa's IMPAX Clinical Dashboard solution can access clinical data from disparate systems through one unified view, enabling easy review of patients' records, laboratory results, EKG studies, cardiology images, PACS images, transcriptions and progress reports. It also optimizes the user experience by only having to sign on once. Source: www.agfa.com

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and OntarioMD Inc. Team Up to Put More Patients in the Driver's Seat with "My Chart"

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre's eHealth initiative and OntarioMD Inc., a subsidiary of the Ontario Medical Association, are jointly making it possible for the hospital's electronic continuity of care record system, My Chart, to reach more patients and physicians.

My Chart was launched by Sunnybrook in early 2006 and is a way for patients to set up, manage and access their own personal health record online. My Chart health information comes directly from Sunnybrook's electronic patient record system. It can be used by patients to monitor care while traveling, set up family records, manage a family member's health information and care plan, keep care providers up to date, set up emergency information and access care in the community.

Source: www.sunnybrook.ca

MEDDecision and Christiana Care Illustrate Economic Benefit of Electronic Health Records

Electronic health records available to emergency department physicians generate significant economic savings, according to the results of a study highlighted in a recent joint Webinar by MEDDecision, Inc. (NASDAQ: MEDE), a provider of software, services and clinical content to healthcare payers, and Christiana Care Health System, one of the mid-Atlantic region's largest healthcare providers.

Validating the potential for health information exchange to quantifiably impact healthcare, the Webinar focuses on an economic benefit study by HealthCore, Inc., an outcomes

research firm that analyzed the financial implications of providing MEDDecision's Patient Clinical Summary – a payer-based electronic health record – to emergency department physicians at Christiana Care's level-one trauma centre in Wilmington, Delaware.

The HealthCore report concludes that each transmitted Patient Clinical Summary generated an average total savings of \$545 on emergency department visit costs and first-day hospitalization expenses for the subset of patients who were subsequently admitted. In addition, the study finds that using the Patient Clinical Summary resulted in significant savings on laboratory testing, cardiac catheterization and medical and surgical supplies. Source: www.MEDDecision.com

William Osler Health Centre Selects Siemens Canada as Long-Term Partner for the Future

Siemens is bundling its expertise in the areas of healthcare, building automation, fire and security and communications in delivering on a contract awarded from William Osler Health Centre (WOHC) for the new Brampton Civic Hospital, located in Brampton, Ontario. The contract awarded to Siemens will form the cornerstone for the healthcare solutions and clinical patient care services offered by WOHC.

The order includes Siemens' Global Solutions, the healthcare consulting arm of the Medical Solutions Group, plus MRI, CT, angiography, MI (nuclear medicine), "cathlab," women's health, urology, radiography, RIS and PACS technologies. Working with WOHC, the Global Solutions group identified the key drivers and criteria that would provide the healthcare facility with a complete technology roadmap. The strategic plan integrated all aspects of healthcare delivery, from work flow and modalities to patient care, data and treatment. Source: www.siemens.ca

MedShare Appoints J. Paul Haynes as CEO

MedShare announced the appointment of technology business leader J. Paul Haynes as chief executive officer. Haynes is a seasoned software executive experienced at taking technology solutions to North American and international marketplaces. He will leverage MedShare's Canadian success in launching its home healthcare software into US markets.

Source: www.medshare.com

Wolf Medical Systems Announces Successful Launch of Primary Care IT Project in Province of Newfoundland and Labrador

Wolf Medical Systems, a provider of electronic medical records (EMR) software for physician offices and medical clinics across Canada, announced that the Practise Management/Electronic Medical Record Urban Pilot Project, part of the Primary Health Care Enhanced Information Technology Project in Newfoundland and Labrador, is up and running, providing 27

physicians on four sites plus clinic staff and dozens of locums and residents access to the software. These four clinics in St. John's were fully trained and operational on the Wolf electronic medical record software on schedule in late November and December; they now have a state-of-the-art EMR suite. Source: www.wolfmedical.com

National Patient Safety Initiative Launched to Provide Free Electronic Prescribing to Every Physician in America

A coalition of five technology vendors and three major insurers has formed an alliance to provide free electronic prescribing services for every physician in America. The National E-Prescribing Safety Initiative coalition includes Microsoft, Google and Dell Computer. Other partners include SureScripts, an e-prescribing company, and Allscripts, an electronic health records company.

This is the first nationwide effort to improve patient safety by offering a solution to the medication errors that harm millions of people each year. Preventable medication errors injure at least 1.5 million Americans and claim more than 7,000 lives each year, according to a July 2006 study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences. In an effort to reduce these errors, the IOM has called on all of the nation's physicians to adopt electronic prescribing by 2010.

Source: www.allscripts.com

Health Affairs Kicks Off Discussion on How Electronic Health Records Can Speed Advances in Medical Care

In a recent issue of *Health Affairs*, US Department of Health and Human Service Secretary Michael O. Leavitt joins national technology experts, including David Eddy and Lynn Etheredge, to showcase ways in which EHRs are making rapid advances in diabetes and cancer care, how rapid-learning capabilities will help accelerate personalized healthcare and how, through rapid learning, doctors will do a much better job of advising patients. Researchers will share findings from a special edition of *Health Affairs*, which focuses on how a rapid-learning health system will reshape medical understanding and the ability of doctors and patients to make better decisions about healthcare, and the role of the public and private sectors in developing this system.

Source: www.burnesscommunications.com/new/

Saskatchewan and Alberta Sign Agreement with COACH for Guidelines for the Protection of Health Information

COACH, Canada's Health Informatics Association, is pleased to announce the signing of a three-year agreement for the province-wide use and distribution of the COACH Guidelines for the Protection of Health Information with the ministries of health in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

This agreement provides both provinces with broad use of the guidelines for their public healthcare organizations and, in one province, the same use also for its private sector health organizations. The Guidelines for the Protection of Health Information are a practical and easy-to-use set of guidelines that embody the tenets of privacy legislation and principles accepted across the country. Source: www.coachorg.com

Available online only www.electronichealthcare.net

Cracks in the Foundation: The Precarious State of Canada's Primary Care Infrastructure

Brian Hutchison

Canadian primary care physicians' use of clinical information and office systems to support the provision of high-quality care lags well behind those of other countries. Only 8% of Canadian respondents have systems in place to perform seven or more of the 14 clinical information functions that were assessed – compared to 72–87% of physicians in Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Canadian physicians ranked lowest on 12 of the 14 functions.

Annual Review of IM/IT in Healthcare

Michael Guerriere

Hear Michael Guerriere's thoughts and analysis of successful and disappointing projects involving IT in healthcare. How are wait times progressing? What have the achievements and challenges been for netCare, OLIS and SSHA among others? What lessons can be learned from diabetes and chronic care management?

Informatics: Emerging Concepts and Issues

Lynn M. Nagle

This new column from the *Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership* will include regular commentary on issues of "eHealth" and informatics as they pertain to nurses. In her as the Senior Nursing Advisor to Canada Health Infoway on the "End-User Engagement Strategy," the author has found a need to clarify the many acronyms and concepts applied to this work and address the persistent confusion related to them. Without a shared understanding of core elements, the notion of "engaging nurses" will likely continue to be fraught with frustration and miscommunication. In this first column, the author offers some points of clarification of the "alphabet soup." In future columns, she will attempt to address other terminally confounded issues and topics of relevance to nurses.