

Scandinavian Health Informatics Educational Tour - March 2010

The Scandinavian Health Informatics Educational tour will take place March 21st-27th 2010, commencing in Sweden and travelling to Denmark to meet with entities which have been a part of developing health care strategies.

Health care leaders from government, private enterprises, and health care organizations will be engaged to provide Canadian participants best practices for the adoption, implementation and sourcing of modern technologies used in the health care service.

The tour has the potential to build strong relationships between key decision makers from Canada and Denmark on how to share information and strategies within health informatics.

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News Highlights

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Ministry of Health and Saskatchewan Medical Association reach Major Milestone in Electronic Medical Records Program

The Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA) announced that funding is now available for Saskatchewan physicians who choose an "Approved Vendor" for Electronic Medical Records (EMR), effective September 1, 2009. Four EMR vendors reached the "Preferred Vendor" stage in the SMA's request for proposal (RFP) process to provide a set of approved EMR products. As of October 28, 2009, only one "Preferred" vendor, Optimed Software Corporation, had reached the "Approved Vendor" stage; their Accuro® EMR solution is now officially a provincially qualified offering for eligible physician clinics in Saskatchewan. The three other "Preferred Vendors" are in various stages of conformance testing, contract negotiations or pilot implementation.

The vision of the joint Ministry of Health and SMA EMR Program is to improve patient care and advance the computer automation of physician clinic practices through the adoption of EMR systems which will inter-operate with the province's investments in

Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems, and to recognize that physicians will incur ongoing costs in investing in this technology. Their goal is to have 80% of Saskatchewan's 1,400 fee-for-service and contracted physicians using EMRs within the next 5 years.

Retroactive funding has also been expanded to include physicians using a limited number of EMR solutions that did not qualify as "Preferred Vendors". In order to qualify, these solutions must meet a minimum level of technical and functional specifications and have been approved and listed through a formal process by a provincial EMR program in another province as of April 1, 2008. In order to receive this funding the physician will need to meet the requirements of the EMR program and convert to a qualified EMR solution prior to March 31, 2010.

For more information visit, www.optimedsoftware.com

News Highlights

EMIS named best technology supplier of the year – UK IT Industry Awards

EMIS has been named best technology supplier of the year in the prestigious UK IT Industry awards.

The awards - combining the longstanding Computing awards for excellence and the BCS IT Industry awards - recognise best practice, innovation and excellence throughout the entire UK IT profession.

EMIS was awarded the prize ahead of a shortlist of 10 companies across a range of different industries. The award was given for our work in advancing healthcare technology through all of the products and services we offer to our customers. Other organisational winners included Google, IBM and Rolls-Royce.

The judges were impressed by EMIS's commitment to meeting or exceeding the requirements and expectations of EMIS users, from some of our first to market innovations including EMIS Access to our patient-centric services such as Patient.co.uk, and for our more recent development of EMIS Web and the results being achieved by the trusts already using it.

The award follows successes as a finalist in the worldwide Microsoft Partner of the Year awards, HealthInvestor awards and E-Health Insider awards during 2009.

For more information visit, www.emis.ca

SKYNET Mobile Communications Partners with Canadian Based Company Procura for Health Care Wireless Solutions

SkyNet Mobile Communications and Procura have partnered in Australia to provide an integrated wireless Point-of-Care solution for organizations offering outbound health and home care services. By utilising Procura and SkyNet's SatTrack application on GPS capable handsets (including BlackBerry and Windows Mobile), providers can automate time and attendance records for each patient visit. This automation allows organisations to increase their productivity by streamlining their business processes around time and attendance, staff rostering and travel time and mileage reporting.

SkyNet Mobile Communications Managing Director, Jon Davis said, "Using SatTrack with Procura, the Home Care worker can get patient information in real time, sent directly from the office to their handset. This in turn increases compliance while reducing costly overheads."

SatTrack with Procura removes the need to carry paper or fill in time cards, while GPS logs confirm attendance on site and assure that visits are completed as planned. In addition, the automatic capture of accurate travel time and mileage logs reduces administrative overheads.

"Should mobile staff encounter a threatening situation, SatTrack offers a discreet duress alarm function that includes GPS location details, position data and escalation options," said Jon, "Providing additional assurance and peace of mind for mobile worker safety."

"Procura and its partners in North America currently deliver cell phone and telephony based Point-of-Care functionality to over 20,000 remote workers," said Warren Brown, President, Procura. "Our partnership with SkyNet provides our Australian customers with a leading edge solution that allows them to decrease costs and attract and retain quality employees."

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4th Quarter
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IBM chosen to build system for electronic health records in Manitoba for improved patient care

IBM announced a C\$22.5 million project with the Government of Manitoba to enhance healthcare throughout the province with the creation of an electronic healthcare records (EHR) system. This technology can offer healthcare providers secure and quick access to pertinent patient information, which can improve the efficiency and quality of patient care while reducing healthcare costs.

Currently information required to treat patients can be spread throughout many hospitals, clinics and other institutions across the province, which can mean a medical professional has only limited access to the vital medical information required to make critical decisions. As a result, choices can be based on partial, inaccurate, and sometimes out-of-date information, leading to a decreased level in the quality of care and unnecessary costs.

IBM will be leading a consortium to deliver to Manitoba a solution that enables cross-discipline integration of information to allow clinicians access to real-time, integrated clinical information from a variety of sources, removing barriers that currently exist. Manitoba EHR will be using the dbMotion™ Solution, whose proven e-health software for health information exchange has been operational in several countries and large healthcare facilities for almost 10 years.

Once implemented, Manitoba's electronic health records system will enable secure sharing of information about a patient's health to authorized healthcare professionals across the province. With

this EHR system, continuity of care for patients will be maintained regardless of the number of provincial healthcare providers a patient visits. This will reduce the chance of medication errors, duplication of treatments and unnecessary medical testing – issues that are very costly to the province each year.

"IBM is committed to providing the most advanced technology to improve the speed and quality of healthcare across Canada," said Giovanni Vatiery, Partner, IBM Global Business Services – Health. "Our collaboration with Manitoba is focused on rapidly achieving results and demonstrating leadership through the practical deployment of the electronic health records."

Consistent with national and international standards for health information exchange and security, the design and development of the EHR system for the citizens of Manitoba has begun with early deployment planned for 2010. Using a highly focused adoption strategy and team, IBM and Manitoba are working toward realizing tangible benefits for Manitobans via the EHR.

Funding for the development of the Manitoba EHR was provided by both the Province of Manitoba and Canada Health Infoway.

For more information, visit www.ibm.com/industries/healthcare

MED2020 Health Care Software Inc., helping hospital facilities to achieve efficiencies and save costs by integrating technology and document management

MED2020 Health Care Software Inc., a Canadian pioneer in Health Information Management solutions, announced the release of 'MDAS', its Digital Archiving Solution. Keenly aware of the challenges facing healthcare today in balancing the management of paper records with the demands on human resources and reduced budgets, MED2020's President and CEO, Jacques Bérubé, has proactively led his Research and Development team in developing a document management solution that would be able to address the 'pain points' being felt by the industry.

Explains Bérubé, "My vision for our MDAS solution was to promote efficiencies by developing tools that would eliminate the handling of paper records while increasing accessibility and security. We need to improve the efficiencies of Health Information Management professionals to meet the rising workload demands and focus on what is important – information quality and patient care – by handling paper records only once. Improving access to patient records for clinical professionals is key to providing timely patient care. MED2020 is offering a robust, comprehensive solution that is affordable, flexible, and scalable and features OCR (Optical Character Recognition) technology to automate form recognition and information retrieval".

experience in overseeing various aspects of chart management activities. We can certainly empathize with the current challenges facilities face with such resource-intensive processes. The push from paper records into electronic format is long overdue. Many hospitals are faced with having to do more with less so it is our company's goal to continue to meet the needs of the health care industry by offering products like our MDAS solution to relieve the pressures and risks that paper records present".

MED2020's Manager of Development for the MDAS solution, Rob Monkhouse, describes how MED2020's flagship product, WinRecs, has been a Canadian success story. Says Monkhouse, "We wanted to continue to offer flexibility with our solutions so MDAS is able to fulfill three criteria: it can be fully integrated with WinRecs; it can be a stand-alone application; or it can be integrated with 3rd party vendor systems. It is also scalable which means that we can customize the application to the needs of a single facility or to larger facilities or regional organizations".

MED2020 believes that MDAS will ultimately provide operational streamlining, a reduction in budget costs and storage and will increase staff productivity, while maintaining the integrity of the data captured within the document management software.

For more information, visit www.MED2020.ca

News Highlights

EMIS and MDERA Enhance Agreement in Alberta



Dr. Steven M Edworthy

EMIS now to provide hosting services to University of Calgary Department of Medicine

Medical Doctors Electronic Record Association of Southern Alberta (MDERA) and EMIS Inc., announced that they have expanded the terms of their original agreement such that EMIS Inc. is now providing hosting services to MDERA,

a medical specialty group, for its continued use of EMIS' EMR, Patient Care System (PCS). While MDERA has been using EMIS' PCS for more than two years, during this period it has been hosted in an Alberta Health Services' ("AHS" - formerly Calgary Health Region) managed data centre. Under the terms of this newly expanded agreement, MDERA will now be fully supported by EMIS at its Alberta Data Centre.

"While the hosting services provided by AHS have been sufficient for us, it became increasingly clear that EMIS' focus on hosting its EMR for physician use afforded us economies of scale, and other valuable capabilities, such as developing shared information system concepts with primary care physicians who also use EMIS. Furthermore, this will enhance our capacity to do research

into better access for patients who need specialty services such as Rheumatology care" said Dr. Steven Edworthy, President of MDERA and practicing rheumatologist with the University of Calgary.

The EMIS Alberta-based data centre has been designed to support EMIS' ever-growing customer base in Alberta, as well as to provide redundancy to data centres in other Provinces such as British Columbia where EMIS is expanding rapidly in terms of customers.

Dr. Edworthy also commented "MDERA is committed to EMIS for the immediate future as it allows us to strengthen the foundation of structured, codified patient charts which will underpin the long-term Alberta healthcare IT landscape. With AHS' support to continue using EMIS during these times of change, and EMIS' investments in affordable ASP solutions for physicians, we feel this is a perfect time to make the move to the Alberta Data Centre. It also provides us the opportunity to take advantage of the advanced capabilities that led us to EMIS in the first place, such as allowing patients to securely access relevant health information, sharing of data between providers, and population health management which we are working to deploy in the coming months. We are particularly pleased to continue working with EMIS' internationally recognized development team to consolidate our use of SNOMED CT as the nationally accepted coding standard.

For more information, visit www.emis.ca

Providing evidence to help move births closer to home

Reporting fewer than 400 births a year, Winchester District Memorial Hospital's obstetrics program faced an uncertain future. However, when data from CIHI showed 600 to 800 low-risk maternity cases were going to nearby urban hospitals, WDMH concluded that repatriating just 50% of those births would result in viable obstetrics care in the community hospital. With the support of both the region and the ministry, WDMH opened its newly expanded program to expectant mothers in March 2009.

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"The data—turned into information—was critical. It drove decisions."

—Trudy Reid
CEO, Winchester District Memorial Hospital

QHR to Acquire CLINICARE Corporation

QHR Technologies Inc. announced that the Company has signed a Letter of Intent to acquire up to 100% of the shares in CLINICARE Corporation, a privately held Calgary based Electronic Medical Records company. The purchase is subject to TSX Venture Exchange approval, CLINICARE shareholder acceptance and to normal closing conditions, which is expected to be completed by the end of November, 2009.

CLINICARE's Board of Directors have unanimously recommended QHR's offer to acquire their shares of the company and acceptance by the CLINICARE shareholders. QHR and CLINICARE have entered into an Exclusivity & Standstill Agreement that is effective immediately and until completion of shareholder purchase agreements.

Once completed, QHR will merge the CLINICARE operations with its EMR division, Optimed Software Corporation, and intends to retain CLINICARE's Calgary and Toronto offices. Optimed will then be supporting over 3,000 physicians across Canada in almost every province for its products, with over 2,000 physicians utilizing EMR. QHR believes more Canadian physicians will be using Optimed's EMR than any other EMR solution and these physician clients have the most extensive EMR database of patient information in Canada.

CLINICARE Corporation, founded in 1984, has approximately 1,200 physicians on their EMR and Practice Management software in Canada and the USA. CLINICARE is well known in Canadian Healthcare circles as the EMR industry leader for the larger Canadian clinics. Many of CLINICARE's physician clients were the early adopters of EMR systems and the drivers behind the adoption of EMR across Canada. CLINICARE is one of four certified EMR vendors in Manitoba (along with Optimed) and one of six full certification OntarioMD CMS version 3.0 vendors.

In announcing the acquisition, Mr. Hildebrandt said, "CLINICARE and Optimed have been competing for the past 6 years in the EMR market. Both companies have invested significant amounts in development to gain market acceptance and provincial certification. Now those duplicate development dollars can be turned into enhancing our marketing efforts across the country and increasing levels of customer support. The level of functionality that a CLINICARE

client would use in their EMR system and guidance from many of Canada's EMR pioneers will be an asset to Optimed's growing community".

Collaborative Care at Its Best Oacis HIE from TELUS to Connect South Carolina Emergency Departments

Time critical data exchange expected to improve patient safety and reduce costs region-wide

Oacis HIE from TELUS to Connect South Carolina Emergency Departments

Members of the newly created Carolina eHealth Alliance (CAeHA) are working together to electronically connect patient records across twelve disparate emergency departments (ED) throughout the Lowcountry region of South Carolina.

The CAeHA will deploy the Oacis Health Information Exchange (HIE) system from TELUS Health Solutions which uses many of the hallmark "open-architecture" characteristics found in the Oacis Clinical Data Repository (CDR), yet enables information exchange under a federated data model instead of a centralized CDR model.

"CAeHA members unanimously felt the Oacis HIE solution was the most impressive," said David Dunlap, CEO of Roper St. Francis Healthcare and CAeHA's governance committee chairman. "The Oacis solution fit well with the alliance's early vision. Dr. Raymond Greenberg, president of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), initiated our efforts around improving the quality of healthcare across the region through an enabling technology that links caregivers, through a common system, with key patient

data," continued Mr. Dunlap. "As a by-product, an improved patient experience combined with reduced care delivery costs are anticipated region-wide. The Oacis project aligns perfectly with CAeHA's goals."

Oacis HIE provides clinicians with quick and simple access to key patient information resulting in a significant reduction in redundant testing as well as duplicative treatments; thus saving money while improving care quality and patient safety. With the growing pressure of high ED volumes, faster throughput will decrease the lag period for records from outside the hospital which contributes to reduced wait-time for patients.

The Oacis EMPI, in combination with the web-based Oacis Clinical Viewer, will provide each of the alliance's ED departments with a means to accurately identify patients and quickly aggregate key electronic portions of their medical records from participating institutions.

A long-term goal of the information exchange is the overall improvement in public health outcomes as well as more effective disaster preparedness.

For more information visit, www.telushealth.com