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National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care Includes Discussions on Informed Consent

ATLANTA, December 7, 2009 — Dialog Medical, the leading provider of informed consent and patient education systems for hospitals and physician practices, today announced that informed consent will be the focus of three poster presentations during the 21st Annual National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care in Orlando, FL.

- “Automating Mental Health Program (MPH) Treatment and Behavioral Contracts”
Date and location: Posterboard Reception; Starting Tuesday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m. and available through the end of the conference; Exhibit Hall
Presenter: Laurie Blum-Eisa, BSN, RN, Clinical Applications Coordinator, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
Description: Jesse Brown VA, a large urban medical center with an extensive Mental Health Program (MHP), automated the process of obtaining, saving and retrieving MPH treatment agreements, behavioral contracts, and other medical center and state-required documents by using the iMedConsent™ application to produce electronic versions of key documents. This poster details the changes the facility made to the entire consent process for mental health patients, including embedding appropriate prompts and fields within documents to facilitate digitized signature capture and leveraging existing interfaces between iMedConsent and the electronic medical record to allow for automated documentation of agreement and contract completion.
- “Leveraging Technology to Complete the Time-Out”
Date and location: Posterboard Reception; Starting Tuesday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m. and available through the end of the conference; Exhibit Hall
Presenters: Margaret Wrana, R.D.L.D., Clinical Information Systems Manager, VA Boston Healthcare System and Janet Pouliot, Clinical Application Coordinator, Providence VA Medical Center
Description: In July 2004, the Universal Protocol for Preventing Wrong Site, Wrong Procedure and Wrong Person Surgery went into effect for all accredited hospitals, ambulatory care and office-based surgery facilities. One component of the protocol – Time-Out – required that all elements of the process be standardized, involve immediate members of the procedure team and be documented. This poster will review how VA Boston Healthcare System successfully created and implemented a unique checklist using the iMedConsent application that fulfills all aspects of Time-Out electronically within an electronic medical record (EMR).
- “Using HIT to Expedite Release of Information”
Date and location: Posterboard Reception; Starting Tuesday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m. and available through the end of the conference; Exhibit Hall
Presenter: Margaret Wrana, R.D.L.D., Clinical Information Systems Manager, VA Boston Healthcare System
Description: VA Boston Healthcare System leveraged its existing healthcare information technology infrastructure to implement a series of four different Release of Information (ROI) forms for its facilities and clinics. This poster will explore how the organization used an automated informed consent application (iMedConsent) embedded within its EMR to make these forms possible. In addition, the system allows VA Boston to improve accuracy of information entered on all ROI forms, and enables faster release of records due to direct e-mail communication to medical records staff.

iMedConsent includes procedure-specific consent forms for more than 2,100 medical and surgical procedures; patient education documents for thousands of diagnoses and treatments; and an extensive anatomical image gallery that allows the physician to annotate images and simplify complex topics for the patient. In addition, the application automates the completion of patient documentation ranging from HIPAA disclosures to advance directives, including the digital capture of signatures, paperless storage of signed documents and electronic notation in the patient's medical record.

"We applaud these clinicians on their exceptional contributions to patient safety and congratulate them on having their work accepted for presentation at the 21st Annual National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care," said Michael Burke, president of Dialog Medical. "Each of these organizations has successfully leveraged technology in a unique and progressive way that can benefit other forward-thinking organizations."

About Dialog Medical

Dialog Medical is a leading provider of informed consent and patient education systems for hospitals and physician practices. The company's iMedConsent™ application is currently used by more than 15,000 physicians in over 185 hospitals and physician practices nationwide. For more information on Dialog Medical and its products, visit www.dialogmedical.com.

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