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Automated Informed Consent a Focus at TEPR

ATLANTA, Ga., May 4, 2005 — Dialog Medical, the leading provider of informed consent and patient education systems for hospitals and physician practices, today announced that automated informed consent will be the focus of two presentations at the 21st Annual TEPR (Towards an Electronic Patient Record) Conference and Exhibition in Salt Lake City, Utah. Two clinical experts will be discussing the challenges associated with the traditional informed consent process and their experience with using Dialog Medical's iMedConsent™ application to enhance and standardize communication with a patient during this process.

- "Experience with an Automated Informed Consent Solution: Impact on Clinical Workflow and Patient Satisfaction"
Speaker: Chad Ritenour, M.D., Assistant Professor of Urology, Emory University, Atlanta; Director of Outpatient Services, Director of the Men's Health Center, The Emory Clinic
Track: IT Systems for Patient Safety
Location: Room 251F
Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2005
Time: 8-8:30 am
Description: Informed consent is a process that is typically conducted as an oral conversation between the physician and patient. That conversation is commonly supplemented with a handwritten, general consent-to-treat document that is employed for all patients undergoing procedures at a particular facility. The risks, benefits, alternatives and other key aspects of the procedure are often not captured in writing and the process may vary significantly between clinicians. An automated system for facilitating and documenting the informed consent process was evaluated in a three-suite urology outpatient facility. The novel application generates detailed, patient and procedure specific consent documents. The system also offered the ability to enhance informed consent discussions by providing patient education materials, illustrative anatomical images and pre-procedure and post-procedure instructions. The automated, computer-assisted consent process provides the opportunity for further consistency and efficiency across practice patterns. This study reveals high patient and clinician satisfaction with an automated informed consent solution.

- "Electronic Support for Patient Decisions: Automating and Integrating the Informed Consent Process"
Speaker: Robert O'Hara, M.D., Chief of Clinical Informatics - Hines VA Hospital; Chief Clinical Architect, Health Information Architecture, Office of Information, The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Washington, DC
Track: What Can be Learned from the Veterans Administration (VA)
Location: Room 252B
Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2005
Time: 4-4:30 pm
Description: The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) with 15,000 physicians serving 5.1 million patients announced its Electronic Support for Patient Decisions initiative in 2004. The cornerstone of this initiative is a unique computer application that addresses all steps in the informed consent process: generation of procedure-specific consent forms for all medical/surgical procedures; preparation of patient education documents for thousands of diagnoses and treatments; and presentation of an extensive anatomical image gallery that allows the physician to annotate images and simplify complex topics for the patient. This integrated system automatically documents the encounter with a progress note stored in the patient's electronic chart. The digitally-signed consent forms are available on the institution's document imaging system. By applying an electronic, systems-based approach to this communication practice, VHA institutions are able to standardize the informed consent process not only within individual facilities, but across the 158-hospital VHA system.

“We are thrilled that the topic of informed consent is receiving exposure in both the Patient Safety and VA Experience tracks at TEPR,” said Michael Burke, president of Dialog Medical. “We believe that an automated informed consent solution clearly offers a host of benefits, and having Dr. Ritenour and Dr. O’Hara share their experiences will do much to contribute to the body of knowledge in this area.”

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 10,000 physicians and in over 100 hospitals nationwide. For more information on Dialog Medical and its products, visit www.dialogmedical.com.

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