

Dialog Medical Joins National Quality Forum

Leading software company will participate in the efforts of the National Quality Forum to develop guidelines for enhancing the informed consent process

ATLANTA, October 28, 2004 — Dialog Medical, the leading provider of informed consent and patient education systems for hospitals and physician practices, today announced that it has joined the National Quality Forum (NQF), a private, not-for-profit membership organization created to develop and implement a national strategy for healthcare quality measurement and public reporting. As a member of the organization, Dialog Medical will be actively involved in activities to catalyze the increased provision of high quality healthcare, specifically as it relates to improving patient safety by enhancing the informed consent process.

In 2003, the NQF endorsed and published *Safe Practices for Better Healthcare*, a set of 30 practices that, if universally utilized in applicable clinical care settings, would substantially reduce adverse events. These practices form the basis of *The Leapfrog Group Hospital Quality and Safety*. Safe Practice 10 states: "Ask each patient or legal surrogate to recount what he or she has been told during the informed consent discussion."

Through the use of Dialog Medical's iMedConsent™ program, healthcare organizations can standardize communication with a patient during the informed consent process and document encounters that occur. Documentation is accomplished via paperless electronic capture of signatures and integration with electronic medical records systems.

"We applaud the National Quality Forum's efforts to develop guidelines for enhancing the informed consent process and are thrilled about having the opportunity to help them with this important patient safety initiative," said Michael Burke, president of Dialog Medical. "As the leading provider of automated informed consent systems for hospitals and physician practices, we can provide a great deal of insight on this subject, especially as it relates to reevaluating the informed consent process and exploring how it can be enhanced to create a safer healthcare environment."

Dialog Medical has participated in two NQF events this fall: the organization's fifth annual meeting in Washington, DC, and a workshop in Baltimore titled "Improving Patient Safety Through Informed Consent in Limited English Proficiency/Low Literacy Populations." The company will continue to participate in NQF-sponsored events and also will continue to lend its support to the creation of any new guidelines related to the informed consent process.

About The National Quality Forum

The mission of the NQF is to improve American healthcare through endorsement of consensus-based national standards for measurement and public reporting of healthcare performance data that provide meaningful information about whether care is safe, timely, beneficial, patient-centered, equitable, and efficient. Established in 1999 as a unique public-private partnership, the NQF has broad participation from all sectors of the healthcare industry. Visit the NQF on the web at www.qualityforum.org.

About Dialog Medical

Dialog Medical is a leading provider of informed consent and patient education systems for hospitals and physician practices. The iMedConsent™ application is currently used by more than 10,000 physicians nationwide. For more information on Dialog Medical and its products, visit www.dialogmedical.com.