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Dialog Medical Announces Availability of Advance Directives Module

New module gives hospitals the tools they need to provide patients with advance directives options

ATLANTA, May 16, 2005 — Dialog Medical, the leading provider of informed consent and patient education systems for hospitals and physician practices, today announced the addition of an advance directives module to its iMedConsent application. When signed by a competent patient, advance directives give direction to healthcare providers about treatment choices in certain circumstances, like when a patient is permanently unconscious. Through the use of the iMedConsent advance directives module, hospitals can ensure that patients who do not check-in with these documents have the ability to create them prior to undergoing a major treatment or procedure.

Advance directives fall into two categories: proxy and instructive. The proxy directive, generally a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPAHC), allows for the designation of a surrogate medical decision maker of the patient's choosing. This surrogate makes care decisions for the patient in the event he or she is incapacitated. Instructive directives allow for preferences regarding the provision of particular therapies or classes of therapies. Since December 1991, the Patient Self Determination Act has required hospitals to inform patients about their right to participate in healthcare decisions, including their right to have advance directives.

The iMedConsent advance directives module enables hospitals to meet the requirements of this Act. After opening the module in the iMedConsent application, hospital staff can assist a patient with assigning durable power of attorney, document the patient's wishes relative to life-sustaining procedures under certain circumstances and allow a patient to enter information about his or her additional wishes. Hospital staff can also capture the patient's signature using a digital signature pad, save the final advance directive in a document imaging system and automatically add a progress note indicating the presence of advance directives to the patient's chart in an existing electronic medical record (EMR) system.

"We are always looking for ways to help providers meet the pressing needs of their patients," said Michael Burke, president of Dialog Medical. "Supplying our hospital customers with access to an advance directives module was a natural step, especially in light of national efforts to better educate patients on the importance of advance directives."

Dialog Medical's iMedConsent application is a comprehensive informed consent and patient education solution that is used by hospitals, surgery centers and physician practices to inform patients about the clinical details, risks, benefits and alternatives associated with thousands of medical treatments and procedures. The application quickly produces procedure and treatment consent forms, tailored to an individual patient's underlying diagnosis, that are drawn from a comprehensive library of consent documents. iMedConsent also includes patient education documents for thousands of diagnoses and treatments, as well as an extensive image gallery that allows the physician to annotate images and simplify complex topics for the patient. Physicians can modify documents to reflect specific treatment protocols, the literacy level of patients and the regulations specific to the state in which they practice. iMedConsent can function as a stand-alone application or seamlessly interface with an institution's EMR system.

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 more than 100 hospitals nationwide. For more information on Dialog Medical and its products, visit www.dialogmedical.com.

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