



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contacts:** Tim Kelly  
Dialog Medical  
770-982-7851, ext. 54  
tkelly@dialogmedical.com

## **Dialog Medical Announces Availability of Comprehension Check™ Module**

*New module enables iMedConsent™ users to confirm patient comprehension  
for proposed treatments and procedures.*

ATLANTA, February 7, 2006 — Dialog Medical, the leading provider of informed consent and patient education systems for hospitals and physician practices, today announced the addition of a Comprehension Check module to its iMedConsent application. Through the use of this module, hospitals can document patient comprehension of what has been communicated during the informed consent process.

Fully comprehended informed consent has been recognized as a major patient safety initiative by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and by The Leapfrog Group. The National Quality Forum (NQF) has also recognized the significance of confirming a patient's understanding of the potential consequences of a treatment or procedure. NQF Safe Practice No. 10 states: *Ask each patient or legal surrogate to recount what he or she has been told during the informed consent discussion.*

Through its membership with the National Quality Forum, Dialog Medical participated in a workshop that examined strategies for implementing NQF Safe Practice No. 10. In late 2005, based in part on findings from this workshop, the NQF released "Implementing a National Voluntary Consensus Standard for Informed Consent: A User's Guide for Healthcare Professionals." The guide provides specific recommendations for the types of questions to employ with patients to confirm their understanding.

The iMedConsent Comprehension Check module incorporates these recommendations. By employing the module in the iMedConsent application, hospital staff can confirm the patient's understanding of their diagnosis, proposed treatment, risks and alternatives. This verification also confirms the patient's understanding of the anatomical location for a procedure – a critical measure to help minimize the risk of wrong-site surgery. Lastly, the Comprehension Check module augments the progress note documenting the informed consent discussion with the specific details related to the patient's comprehension of all aspects of the proposed procedure. That note is then automatically posted to the patient's chart in an existing electronic medical record (EMR) system.

"The iMedConsent application helps institutions meet a critical patient safety goal by supplying providers with patient education materials and detailed, procedure-specific consent forms in easy-to-understand language," said Michael Burke, president of Dialog Medical. "Our Comprehension Check module expands that functionality by offering a supplemental tool for confirming and documenting patient understanding."

### **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 hospitals and physician practices nationwide. For more information on Dialog Medical and its products, visit [www.dialogmedical.com](http://www.dialogmedical.com).

###