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

Dialog Medical Unveils New Spanish Language Module

Provides health care organizations with a comprehensive and cost-effective solution for meeting the patient education needs of Spanish-speaking Americans

ATLANTA, February 13, 2007 — Dialog Medical, the leading provider of informed consent and patient education systems for hospitals and physician practices, today announced the addition of a Spanish language module to its iMedConsent™ application. Through this module, health care organizations have access to informed consent and patient education documents that are customized for Spanish-speaking Americans.

In 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau found that 28.1 million Americans spoke Spanish at home and that the number of Spanish-speaking Americans had grown 62 percent since 1990. Further, a recent survey conducted by the National Health Law Program found that 43 states currently have one or more laws about language access in health care. These state laws expand upon the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which seeks to ensure that all entities that receive funding from the Department of Health and Human Services provide equal access to services for persons with limited English proficiency.

To understand the potential impact language barriers can have on patients, consider the following real-life example from a perspective article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*¹: An 18-year-old male patient said in Spanish that he felt nauseated before collapsing. A non-Spanish-speaking paramedic mistook the word to mean "intoxicated," and the patient spent more than 36 hours being worked up for a drug overdose. The delay resulted in the rupture of a brain aneurysm and, ultimately, quadriplegia. The case was later settled for \$71 million.

The iMedConsent Spanish language module includes informed consent, patient education and instruction, and test and admission documents for 32 clinical specialties. It also provides access to advanced directive documents and a customized informed consent template. Provider interface software allows for the selection of Spanish language documents and facilitates identification of a translator, including optional signature capture.

"Studies have shown that patients who face language barriers can receive fewer preventive services, have difficulty accessing care, and are less likely to follow medication directions," said Michael Burke, president of Dialog Medical. "We believe our Spanish language module offers forward-thinking health care organizations a solution not only to the challenge of diagnosing and treating a Spanish-speaking patient, but also to building the necessary bilingual staff."

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.

¹ Flores G. Language Barriers to Health Care in the United States. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2006; 355:229-231.

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