

Electronic Medical Records & Practice Management

The Benefits...

- Increase Revenue
- Reduce Expenses
- Better Utilization of Staff
- Totally Integrated System, medical records, billing, scheduling, collection, claims, lab results and more.
- Improve Patient Care Giving
- Shorter Accounts Receivable Cycle
- Secure, High Grade Encryption
- HIPPA Compliant
- Windows Based - Easy to use
- Highly Customizable - Used in many different Practices and Specialties

Bush Creates Post to Lead Medical-Records Switch.

President Bush has created a new position to advance the transition to electronic medical records. The Department of Health and Human Services official, who has not yet been selected, will be largely responsible for coordinating the public-private partnerships necessary to get health-care systems across the country to use compatible standards and methods.

The announcement wasn't surprising, said Lorraine Fernandes, senior vice president of health-care practice at Initiate Systems Inc., which sells software and services to manage patient identities. But choosing the right person is important, Fernandes said. Whoever fills the post will need to quickly win trust and build consensus among consumers, providers and vendors—groups that often have

disparate needs, she said. "Someone controversial won't push this forward."

Bush's announcement was joined by other proposals, including an increase of \$50 million in grant funding for community health providers to adopt IT systems, as well as a request for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to draw up plans for creating incentives to implement IT systems.

"Within ten years, every American must have a personal electronic medical record," Bush said at a conference in Minnesota of the American Association of Community Colleges. "We've set out money to encourage demonstration projects that will show the health-care providers the need to use electronics to make their records

system more modern." But Fernandes said health-care providers would likely find outright grants more useful than incentive programs.



Article continued on next page.

MEDIFORMATIX, EMR & PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

"MedInformatix is dedicated to the development of leading-edge IT solutions for an ever-changing healthcare environment

MedInformatix's fully integrated Electronic Medical Record (EMR) and Practice Management (PM) solution is designed for an enterprise wide-area networked environment. We implement a totally paper/filmless office by allowing patient records to be accessed at the actual point-of-care via a wireless pen pad or stationary PC and by managing all clinical, administrative and follow up processes electronically.

The software is compliant with industry standards and protocols (e.g. HIPAA) and is constantly being upgraded with new features that allow greater functionality and more streamlined workflow.

Who Benefits?

- o Any size or type of health-care enterprise: solo practices, physician groups, healthcare providers, medical facilities, specialty practices, community health groups, plan providers, hospitals, managed care organizations, specialized health care programs, research facilities, comple-

mentary technology companies.

- o Across all specialties: Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Mental Health, Radiology, OB/GYN, Oncology, Ophthalmology and more.
- o Patients who trust their providers to give them the best possible service and care

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First Hand Experience

"We looked at a number of Electronic Medical Records and Practice Management systems before we chose MedInformatix. We installed MedInformatix in February 2003 and haven't looked back. We have reduced our staff by 25% and our overall staff labor cost by as much as 33%. We have redistributed our staff's workload to enable them to do the work they were trained to do, our nurses spend more time caring for the patient and less time with paperwork. What this has led to is a much happier staff that gives our patients better care at a much lower price. What we are able to do is see a patient in the morning, have lab work performed, have it automatically placed into the patient's chart by that afternoon and give the patient the results the same day. We are able to respond to patient inquiries immediately, because we have the patient's information at our fingertips from anywhere we have internet access. I am able to send patient information to labor & delivery, surgery, and other doctor's from virtually anywhere. The savings we are seeing is helping us cover the ever rising cost of insurance."

- Wooster Obstetrics & Gynecology

Bush Creates Post to Lead Medical-Records Switch –Continued.

Vendors often make contributions in terms of IT software and human resources, she said. "It's much easier for a vendor to make those types of gestures in a private consortium than in something that the federal government might put forward," she said, adding that companies helping hospitals to link patient records across a community could encounter discouraging red tape in public programs.

Senator Max Cleland, D-Ga., criticized

Bush's proposal as an empty gesture, citing a \$472 million computer system at a veterans medical center in St.

Petersburg, Fla., that delayed surgeries and compromised physician care, according to the Baltimore Sun.

But a recent article from Baseline described how the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs overcame its initial struggles to share medical records electronically.

One solution is for the government to fund a percentage of health-care providers' costs toward building more automated health-care systems, Fernandes said. For example, Infoway, an agency funded by the Canadian gov-

ernment, does this for vendors that process radiology images, so the images can be viewed by common electronic systems.

The Infoway program also funds efforts by provinces to build a client registry that can link patients across a province. Such data sharing can help doctors know about treatments a patient has received from another health-care provider—information doctors need to provide the best care.

ing to be done is going to be on a need-to-know basis, and that theory is already written into the HIPAA [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act] legislation."

"*Bush Creates Post to Lead Medical-Records Switch*", **eWeek Enterprise News and Reviews**. Accessed May 7, 2004; <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1582062,00.asp>

"Within ten years, every American must have a personal electronic medical record,"

Both Canada and the United Kingdom have implemented systems for doctors to access medical records that

are much further along than systems in the United States.

The Bush administration claims that, once in place, the system could be used to detect epidemics or even bioterrorism attacks by detecting unusual numbers of patients with certain symptoms.

But that doesn't mean that authorities could create lists of all patients taking a particular drug or undergoing a certain procedure, Fernandes said. "A lot of what's gov-

