



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Jeff Odell
Senior Vice President
MedVirginia
(804) 359-4500 x227
jodell@medvirginia.net

Richmond, VA—October 5, 2007—

MedVirginia Awarded NHIN Contract By Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Today U.S. HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt announced the award of contracts totaling \$22.5 million to nine health information exchanges (HIEs), including Richmond-based MedVirginia, to begin trial implementations of the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN).

According to HHS these contracts will create a secure foundation for basic health information exchange between select HIEs upon which more complex functions will be possible over time. This work will advance the nation toward the President's goal of most Americans having access to secure electronic health records by 2014, by creating a secure foundation for health information exchange. "These trial implementations are taking place in communities across America that are leading the way to health care transformation using secure, interoperable health information technology," Secretary Leavitt said. "Trial implementations of the Nationwide Health Information Network will bring us steps closer to a health IT system that will improve quality of care, increase efficiencies in health care, and improve disease prevention."

Michael Matthews, MedVirginia's CEO, stated "this is an historic day for MedVirginia and more importantly, for patients and health care providers, as our nation's health IT infrastructure takes a giant step forward in its ability to share health information where and when its needed most." MedVirginia's Board Chair, James Ratliff, MD, Virginia Urology, added, "on behalf of our practicing physicians, we applaud HHS' initiative to improve the flow of critical health information amongst the medical community. Secure interoperability is certain to drive further adoption of health IT and allow us to achieve new levels of patient safety and quality."

The full announcement by HHS may be found at:
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2007pres/10/pr20071005a.html>

About MedVirginia

MedVirginia LLC, established in 2000, is a provider-owned organization based in Richmond, VA. Its organizational purpose is to improve quality, safety and efficiency through the use of health information technology. At its core is *MedVirginia SolutionSM*, a community-based health information exchange linking clinical data from physicians, hospitals, labs and pharmacies. In January 2006, MedVirginia's RHIO became operational, making it among the first "live" RHIOs in the U.S. On February 28, 2007 Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced that MedVirginia will receive funding from the Virginia Health Information Technology (HIT) Council for expansion of capabilities in central Virginia.

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