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New Foundation Announces Grant to Patient Safety Institute (PSI)

Grant Provides Path to Build Real-Time Clinical Information Connectivity Across East Tennessee

Plano, TX; Boston, MA; and Knoxville, TN (Nov. 7, 2005) - Today, the Physicians' Foundation for Health Systems Excellence announced a \$985,000 grant to the Patient Safety Institute (PSI).

The grant will enable PSI and East Tennessee Health Information Network (etHIN) to develop the first phase of a self-sustaining Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) in eastern Tennessee. The grant will combine each organization's success in connecting physicians, hospitals, payers and consumers, to allow them to share clinical information at the point of care or decision.

In the first of three phases, PSI and etHIN will create a physician portal and demonstrate community-wide interoperability. When fully functional in phase II, the portal will offer participating physicians access to a composite, aggregated patient-centric view of clinical data provided by other providers who are also participating in the network.

etHIN is already developing the network. The Patient Safety Institute will provide linkages and a cross-entity, patient-centric view of critical clinical information to enable etHIN to expand its current offerings at the point of care or decision. The grant begins January 1, 2006 and the implementation is expected to be in place six months later.

Phases II and III will build on the technology provided and work done in this first phase. The subsequent phases will focus on implementing, operating and expanding the community-wide interoperability. Over the course of phase II and III, the network will transition from being dependent on outside funding to one that is self-funding and self-sustaining thereafter.

“Medical mistakes claim more than 100,000 lives each year – many simply due to the lack of information. That is unacceptable,” said Jack Lewin, MD, CEO, California Medical Association and PSI Board Chair. “Every physician I talk to is very excited about this because of the freedom it would give them to practice better medicine.”

“etHIN and the Knoxville community have been making great strides toward connecting physicians and providers to share critical clinical information at the point of care,” said Alan Hill, Co-Manager, East Tennessee Health Information Network. “The partnership with PSI and the funding by the Physicians’ Foundation will accelerate our efforts ...bringing a better solution, while shaving years off the process.”

“PSI has been continually impressed by the progress of etHIN and the support of the Knoxville community in creating medical data interconnectivity at the point of care. It is a near-perfect environment to develop the nation’s first scalable, replicable, self-funding, community-wide clinical information sharing utility,” said Johnny Walker, CEO, PSI.

“Knoxville is proud to have been selected by the Physicians’ Foundation for Health Systems Excellence and the Patient Safety Institute to become a model in providing medical information to physicians at the point of care,” said Mike Ragsdale, Knox County Mayor. “The future in this area of quality improvement will bear the stamp: Made in Knoxville to work for people everywhere.”

"Unacceptable levels of medical errors coupled with rising health care costs put health insurance out of reach for too many people. We need to make health care safer and more affordable. PSI can help in both areas," said Congressman Sam Johnson, US Congressman, Third District of Texas. "Based on the successful VISA model, the Patient Safety Institute is applying the real-world lessons learned by the banking industry to the similar problems faced by the health care industry. As a trailblazer in the consumer-centered health care arena, the Institute holds great promise for health care and the country."

“I am pleased to see the East Tennessee Health Information Network receive this valuable funding,” said Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander. “Advances in health information technology will help improve the quality of care Americans receive and reduce the costs of healthcare in the United States. I am glad to see Knoxville’s healthcare leaders working together to advance health information technology efforts.”

About Patient Safety Institute

Patient Safety Institute (PSI) is a national, non-profit, patient-centric 501(c)(3) open membership organization that is dedicated to supporting communities across the nation in their development of clinical information sharing networks.

PSI is governed by leading consumer, physician and hospital advocates. It is formed to provide the healthcare community with a commonly owned, inclusive, multi-stakeholder network utility to improve patient safety, quality of care and lower costs.

PSI is not a vendor and does not promote a proprietary technology or product. PSI offers national connectivity of clinical information through a representative, collaborative organization, like VISA[®], that allows communities and organizations to achieve success together, that they could never achieve individually.

For more information on PSI, please visit www.ptsafety.org.

About etHIN

The East Tennessee Health Information Network (etHIN) had its foundational beginnings in the fall of 2002 and in less than two years had an operational platform with real applications started in June, 2004. Currently, the network is comprised of the four major hospitals in the Knoxville area which represents 72% of available beds in a 16 county East Tennessee region. Technology 2020 with the Digital Crossing co-location facility hosts the network. etHIN's goal is to develop into a robust, multi-stakeholder Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) for the region of Knox County and its surrounding counties that can be a model for other communities.

For more information on etHIN contact Alan Hill at (865) 522-0360 or ahill@clearpathgroup.com.

About Physicians' Foundation for Health Systems Excellence

Physicians' Foundation for Health Systems Excellence (PFHSE) is a \$98 million grant making foundation established in 2004 as part of a settlement in a class action lawsuit between physicians, medical societies, and Aetna, Inc.

PFHSE devotes its resources to helping physicians improve the care they deliver to their patients. The Foundation provides grants to non-profit organizations for innovative, practice-based projects that provide physician education or address quality of care or patient safety issues.

For more information on PFHSE, please visit www.physiciansfoundation.org.