

Buffalo Medical Group Joins National Network of EMR Users *Secure Exchange of Patient Information Now Possible with Care Everywhere*

WILLIAMSVILLE, NY – Buffalo Medical Group, PC, is now part of an electronic medical records network that makes it possible to securely exchange patient information with hospitals and health care providers across the United States.

BMG began the conversion from paper charts to electronic medical records (EMR) several years ago using software developed by Epic Systems Corp., of Verona, WI. More than 80 percent of BMG physicians are now using EMR with the rollout expected to be completed by year's end or early 2011.

Buffalo Medical Group is the only Epic customer in Western New York and the lone health care provider in New York State that is part of *Care Everywhere*, a network created by Epic that currently links health care providers in nine states. Among them are Kaiser Permanente and Exempla Healthcare in Colorado; Memorial Care which includes five hospitals in California; Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, and Texas Health Resources and Children's Medical Center in Dallas/Ft. Worth.

With *Care Everywhere*, providers who are using Epic software are able to share vital medical information through secure, encrypted internet connections once an authorization is obtained from the patient. The consent is stored within Epic and the signed copy can be scanned for future reference.

"The major difference between *Care Everywhere* and other local or regional such networks is that the patient information is housed with the provider (in this case, BMG) and not a central repository, registry or master patient index, and can be released only with the consent of the patient," explained Daniel J. Scully, Buffalo Medical Group CEO.

"For example, if a Buffalo Medical Group patient were to seek medical attention from an EpicCare provider in another state, the clinician there can contact our EMR, and with the patient's permission, the link can be used to exchange clinical information to develop the appropriate treatment plan," Scully added.

To further illustrate the benefits of *Care Everywhere*, he noted that if a patient happens to go to a third EpicCare facility to receive treatment, all three of the providers would be linked.

"What this all means is that by sharing information electronically, clinicians have virtually instant access to patient records, and can therefore treat them more quickly while reducing the possibility of errors," Scully remarked. "Bottom line, it's all about improving the quality of patient care and reducing the cost of health care."

Scully noted that the cost to join the *Care Everywhere* network was just \$24,000 and it was accomplished in approximately eight hours.

Founded in 1946, Buffalo Medical Group, PC, is among the oldest and largest multi-specialty physician practice groups in New York State. With 90 specialists and sub-specialists as well as a team of 660 nurses, technologists, and other health care professionals, BMG records more than 400,000 outpatient visits annually at its main locations in Buffalo, Williamsville, and Orchard Park and 24 satellite sites.

Epic is one of the nation's leading developers of software for mid-size and large medical groups, hospitals and integrated health care organizations. Founded in 1979, Epic develops, installs and supports all of its applications in-house. When current rollouts are completed about one in four physicians (approximately 150,000) will be using EpicCare.

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