



PRESS RELEASE
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ELLIOT HEALTH SYSTEM PURSUES MEANINGFUL USE OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Manchester, NH -- Government efforts to bring higher quality and safer care to patients through broad adoption of health information technology (health IT) have enjoyed bipartisan support for many years. Elliot Health System is helping bring this vision to reality by joining the ranks of hospitals and healthcare providers across the nation that are enthusiastically embracing the benefits of electronic health records and other forms of health IT.

“By registering our intent with the Department of Health and Human Services to become a ‘meaningful user’ of electronic health records, Elliot is demonstrating its commitment to provide a number of advantages to our patients,” said Doug Dean, President & CEO. “The advantages include access by Elliot doctors to their patients’ complete health picture from across the health system no matter where they received services, better care coordination, and fewer repetitive tests as our providers share information, and ultimately savings in time, money and most importantly lives,” added Dean.

Elliot has spent the past 10 years developing a single electronic medical record (EMR) that is utilized throughout our health system including the Elliot Physician Network, emergency department and urgent care center, and throughout the hospital and outpatient departments. “The fact that Elliot has one electronic medical record system that can be viewed and read from all Elliot locations and by all Elliot providers truly sets us apart,” explains Greg Baxter, MD, Vice President of Medical Staff Affairs & CMO. “Many other hospitals have an electronic record, but it’s not the same system that is located in the primary care, specialists offices, and hospital setting so the patient record is incomplete and not seamless as it is here at Elliot.”

Some of the advantages and important safety aspects of the EMR include bar coded bedside medication administration, allergy and drug adverse interaction alerts, elimination of handwriting errors, and direct submission of prescriptions electronically to pharmacies to avoid transcribing errors. Elliot’s electronic health record is benefiting its patients every day whether it is when they arrive in the Emergency Department and their medications and allergies are immediately available, or when they see their primary care physician who can track whether they are up to date with immunizations, screening exams like mammography’s and colonoscopy’s, for example. Patients also enjoy the ability to access their own record and communicate with their physician through a patient portal called *MyEChart*. “We are confident that having a fully integrated medical record allows our providers to improve quality by sharing information across all care settings in our network and that this has become the standard of care many organizations will now have to strive to achieve,” explained Doug Dean.

“Many physicians and teams of staff have worked hard over the course of many years to develop an Electronic Medical Record for Elliot that is not only fully integrated but puts Elliot Health System among few healthcare organizations and hospitals across the country that have achieved this level of

integration and functionality. In fact, less than 4% of the nation's healthcare systems have achieved this level of success," said Denise Purington, VP, CIO. "I am so proud of the work we have done and I want to share my sincere gratitude with all the people at Elliot who understood and had the vision to embrace this challenge knowing that the result would return great dividends to our patient."

Elliot Health System is a non-profit organization serving your healthcare needs since 1890. The largest provider of comprehensive healthcare services in Southern New Hampshire, Elliot Hospital, a 296-bed acute care facility and the first community hospital in the state serves as the cornerstone of the health system. Elliot is home to Manchester's designated Regional Trauma Center, Elliot Breast Health Center, Elliot Urgent Care, a Level 3 Newborn Intensive Care Unit, Elliot Physician Network, Elliot Regional Cancer Center, the Elliot Senior Health Center, Visiting Nurse Association of Manchester and Southern New Hampshire, and Elliot 1-Day Surgery Center. For more information on any of Elliot's services, call Elliot On-Call at 663-4567 or visit www.elliotohospital.org.

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