

## MedSeek Expands Its Reach Across the Border

MedSeek, a Web solutions provider for the healthcare industry, has announced that they have signed on their first international client, The Ottawa Hospital in Ontario, Canada.

"This is a very significant benchmark for both MedSeek and the concept of e-health," says Gale Wilson-Steele, CEO and founder of MedSeek. "We have proven that our Web-based communication tools advance communications for more than 300 installed hospital clients here in the United States. To provide these services for our Canadian neighbors demonstrates that the need for secure, timely information exchange exists regardless of the underlying healthcare model. The Ottawa Hospital will use MedSeek products to improve internal communications, a supporting initiative in fulfilling their vision of becoming a nationally recognized academic health sciences centre of choice."

MedSeek provides hospitals, provider groups, and managed care organizations with full-featured online publishing tools that empower these organizations to build and manage their own Web sites, intranets, and Web portals. MedSeek incorporates HIM tools, secure data access, and patient/physician connectivity to promote the interactions between patients and providers.

"The combination of MedSeek's superior product, coupled with its recent international reach, will significantly increase our exposure within the healthcare industry," says Peter Kuhn, president, MedSeek. "The healthcare industry is rapidly changing, and it's apparent that Web-based technology is revolutionizing the way that patients and doctors communicate."

— Source: MedSeek

## Sutter Health Earns First Franklin Award From ACMA, JCAHO

The American Case Management Association (ACMA) and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) have named the Sutter Health continuum case management department of the Sacramento Sierra Region in Sacramento, Calif., the inaugural winner of the Franklin Award of Distinction.

Sutter Health was recognized for the work of its continuum case management department to improve quality by working with physicians and nurses to define and implement clinical practice guidelines. The department established a regional committee to bring together representatives from alternate levels of care and disciplines.

"One good outcome was that this

improved hospital bed capacity," says Sarah Krevans, CEO, Sutter Health, Sacramento Sierra Region. "This team engenders credibility with physicians through their consistent approach to utilization management. They have a commitment to link patients with the right care at the right time and place of services, regardless of the payor. They don't make decisions for Sutter patients, but rather give patients the information they need to make informed choices," Krevans explains.

A panel of national experts, including nurses, social workers, and other healthcare professionals, identified by the ACMA and JCAHO, selected Sutter Health for the award. Evaluation criteria for the award included the hospital/health system's ability to demonstrate their commitment to a collaborative philosophy and an interdisciplinary process for case management.

"Patient care has never been an independent practice. Case management is no exception. Organizations such as Sutter Health are worthy of distinction because they can demonstrate an understanding and application of collaborative practice," says L. Greg Cunningham, CEO, ACMA.

"The Joint Commission applauds Sutter Health for its achievements in case management services," says Maureen Potter, executive director, disease-specific care certification, JCAHO. "The approaches and collaboration of Sutter Health demonstrates what is possible in patient care."

On-site evaluations of the award finalists were conducted to validate that their case management services meet or exceed the award's criteria for excellence. Evaluation criteria included the following:

- The case management service demonstrates that practice is interdependent and not the function of one person or discipline.
- The service demonstrates respect for distinct professional identities and skills.
- The practice of case management is the catalyst for stronger relationships that achieve the best care for patients and families.
- The practice of case management provides leadership, competence, and expertise in the solution or resolution of identified problems.
- The service has evolved through evaluation and innovation.
- The patient care provided achieves clinical, operational, and/or quality outcomes.
- Practice is validated by measurable and reportable outcomes.
- Improved clinical outcomes are documented to the extent that improvement can be replicated in other hospitals or health systems.

The award is named for Benjamin Franklin, the cofounder of the first organized hospital in the United States. His personal character, integrity, and credibility, as well as his reputation as an entrepreneur and inventor, represent the type of leader-

ship and forward thinking that distinguish the hospitals or health systems recognized as Franklin Award recipients.

— Source: American Case Management Association and Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

## First Class Solutions, Inc. Releases Cortrak V. 4.2

After more than one year of studying the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations, discussing modifications requested by our credentialed health information professionals and clients, and programming modifications, First Class Solutions, Inc. has released Version 4.2 of Cortrak.

Cortrak has been used as a release of information tracking system by hospitals, clinics, and release of information copy services nationwide since 1991. The core components of Cortrak include requestor information, patient information, unlimited materials sent, request type, invoicing, and extensive reports. HIPAA enhancements include extensive security attributes, TPO tags, alerts to amendments, suspensions, restrictions, revocations, and accounting for disclosure reporting.

Cortrak can be used as a single user, on a network, or Web-based. It requires no interfaces and is easy to install on any PC in any department in any facility, enterprisewide, where protected health information is disclosed. Field-level HELP documentation is built into the product. The network feature allows users throughout the enterprise to access the product through secured passwords and enter disclosures for HIPAA accounting purposes. The database remains centralized to ensure complete accounting of disclosures, regardless of the location within the enterprise where the disclosures were made.

Cortrak provides for multiple passwords, automatic time-outs, ample note space to record amendments and other pertinent information, has the ability to accept imports of data and provide data exports, requires no vendor-supplied on-site training and installation, and respects the budget restraints of healthcare organizations.

— Source: First Class Solutions, Inc.

## QuadraMed Donates Quantim HIM Applications to AHIMA Foundation

QuadraMed Corporation has announced that as a part of its corporate giving program, the company is donating a suite of its Quantum HIM products to the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Foundation of Research and Education (FORE), Chicago,