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Delray Medical Center Launches Digital Health Record System *Launch Key in Enhancing Patient Safety and Care*

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. – January 2012- As part of its IMPACT project to advance into the digital age of medicine, Delray Medical Center has begun implementing a new computerized electronic patient records system. This advancement will reduce the hospital's reliance on paper records, moving the hospital's record system to primarily electronic. This new records process means increased patient safety, efficiency and improved access to patients' medical records by their physicians and healthcare providers. Hospital staff and area physicians have been in training for several months in readiness for the transition.

"Electronic patient records allow our physicians and clinical staff instantaneous access to a patient's complete record, 24 hours a day," said Mark Bryan, chief executive officer of Delray Medical Center. "This will provide access to the latest patient information including vital signs, lab results, medications, radiology scans – even previous hospital stays, and more; all used in making clinical decisions and delivering great patient care."

Information will no longer be handwritten, but keyed in electronically, making patient information available in a timely manner, legible and kept up to date constantly throughout a patient's stay.

"It's critical to move medicine into the digital age, and electronic medical records are one crucial component of this system shift," said Todd Horowitz, D.O., one of the DMC IMPACT physician chairs. "As a hospital, Delray Medical Center and its physicians have embraced the importance and value of electronic medical records, which can bring many benefits from both a clinical process and patient care stand point."

Enhancing patient care is what the computerized electronic patient records system is all about. For patients it means an increase in safety, as quick access to patient records can reduce the chance of medication errors due to written record illegibility and the unavailability of medication histories. The electronic system also increases physicians' access to some of the latest clinical practices made available at the point of care.

“Our new technology will provide our physicians, other clinicians, and caretakers instant access to vital patient care information from any part of the hospital or even from remote locations,” said Richard Kim, M.D., one of the DMC IMPACT physician chairs. “Having the right information at the right time and place will help us achieve a higher standard of quality, safety and service for our patients.”

Another benefit is reducing the costs associated with duplicate tests and procedures. An interoperable digital record can be shared between digital systems and medical providers. This sharing of tests and results can eliminate duplicated procedures across multiple health providers, which is a shared benefit for both the patient and the hospital.

As a top priority of the IMPACT project, Delray Medical Center's new digital record system is secure and in compliance with security and HIPAA standards set forth by the Federal Government. The new system utilizes built-in computer security tracking to monitor all record requests with audits performed regularly. It is also a certified system to meet the qualifications and standards set forth by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) “meaningful use” requirements for electronic health record systems.

Implementing this electronic health record system is just the first phase of the IMPACT project. The hospital will also be taking steps to integrate personal health records, interoperability and participation in the health information exchange, and computerized provider order entry. Other Tenet hospitals in Palm Beach County are also implementing IMPACT projects, including West Boca Medical Center whose system is already live. St. Mary's Medical Center and Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center will go-live in April 2012, and Good Samaritan Medical Center will begin the first round of go-live in May.

ABOUT DELRAY MEDICAL CENTER

For more than 25 years, Delray Medical Center, a 493-bed acute care hospital, has served the communities of South Palm Beach County. As both a community hospital and Provisional Level I Trauma Center located on a 42-acre medical plaza, Delray Medical Center has the ability to offer several specialized services including Cardiac Care, Orthopedics, Rehabilitation, Neurosciences, Emergency/Trauma Care, Behavioral Health, and more.

For the past five years, Delray Medical Center has been named one of America's 50 Best Hospitals by HealthGrades, a leading independent healthcare ratings organization. Delray Medical Center is one of only 269 hospitals ranked in the top 5% in the nation for patient outcomes according to HealthGrades, achieving the HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital for Clinical

Excellence Award™. Delray Medical Center was one of just 13 hospitals in South Florida- and one of five in Palm Beach County- that received this recognition for its clinical performance.

Several specialized services lines have also earned high achievements. Delray Medical Center's designation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) confirms that the hospital's care programs follow national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve the outcomes for stroke patients. This designation followed Delray Medical Center's accreditation by the Joint Commission as a Primary Stroke Center.

For its orthopedics, Delray Medical Center is a Blue Distinction Center for Spine Surgery and Knee and Hip Replacement by Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Delray Medical Center's cardiovascular care has also been the recipient of several awards. The hospital was featured in a special advertisement in the "America's Best Hospitals" 2010 issue of US News & World Report to commemorate their receipt of the *Get With the Guidelines* Coronary Artery Disease GOLD Award, GOLD Heart Failure Award, and GOLD Plus Stroke Award. In addition, Delray Medical Center was recently named one of America's "Top 50 Cardiovascular Hospitals" by a Thomson Reuters. Selected from more than 1,000 U.S. hospitals, Delray Medical Center was chosen based on its record of providing high-quality and effective cardiovascular care.

Delray Medical Center is actively involved in community outreach, sponsoring many events, community lectures and fundraisers. The hospital is also a smoke free campus. For more information or a physician referral, please call 1-800-897-9789 or visit the website at www.delraymedicalctr.com

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