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SIEMENS CONNECTS HEALTHCARE COMMUNITIES WITH SECURE, WEB-BASED SOLUTIONS
Soarian Community Access Delivers on the Demand for Connectivity Across the Healthcare Continuum

MALVERN, Pa., Jan. 23, 2006 – Furthering its leadership in connecting the communities of healthcare, Siemens Medical Solutions announces the general availability of Soarian[®] Community Access, an information technology (IT) solution that enables healthcare providers to reach outside the walls of their organizations to securely connect with patients and other members of the healthcare community online – helping to build physician affinity, increase efficiency and streamline communications.

The latest addition to the Soarian family, Soarian Community Access is a Web-native solution that provides secure, single sign-on access to browser and non-browser-based applications, Web content, online services and content created by a health enterprise. It also features a Web-based messaging system for secure communications and information exchange between hospitals, physician providers, ancillary providers and patients.

Meeting the needs of both acute and ambulatory care providers, the solution is currently live at St. Luke's Health System, a 369-bed tertiary care center located in Boise, Idaho, and Northwest Physicians Network, a 424-member independent physician association located in Tacoma, Wash.

“While technology has progressed significantly, the challenge is still the same: connect ‘Main Street’ physicians – who represent 80 percent of our nation’s medical care providers – to information when and where it is needed,” said Rick MacCornack, Ph.D., Director of Quality Improvement, Northwest Physicians Network. “In the south Puget Sound community, Soarian Community Access is helping us to break down the silos between provider institutions and providers themselves to improve the coordination of care for patients.”

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Nearly 2000 Users Coordinate Care and Share Information Through Soarian Community Access

To this end, The Pierce County Medical Society and Northwest Physicians Network (NPN) have co-sponsored a major physician initiative to electronically connect all physicians in the Pierce County area with each other, their patients and all community partners who generate clinical information on patients. Named "The Network," this physician-led initiative has been using Soarian Community Access since October 2004. To date, more than 760 physicians and staff, and more than 150 patients are using The Network. Nearly 75,000 online communications have been generated since the inception of The Network.

Additionally, St. Luke's Health System, Idaho's largest healthcare provider, is providing access from the hospital to its physician community using Soarian Community Access single sign-on, remote access and secure communication features to streamline physician workflow, making it easier for physicians to work with the institution. With three full-service hospitals, 25 outpatient facilities and 600 physicians, St. Luke's treats more than 325,000 patients per year from Idaho and six adjoining states.

The implementation at St. Luke's began with a rollout to 35 pilot physicians in January 2004. In spring 2005, the user count was 100 physicians. With the addition of remote access and lab results, participation exploded. As of October 2005, St. Luke's had more than 1,200 users including nearly 300 physicians and 600 hospital users with remote access to the single sign-on physician portal, physician-to-physician secure messaging and clinician access to data.

"The reality is that healthcare today extends beyond one person, in one department, in one building," said Tom Miller, president, Healthcare Information Technology Division, Siemens Medical Solutions. "As a result, patients need more proactive, truly integrated care that considers their personal history and past encounters in the context of their current condition and needs, regardless of where they are physically located. Secure, Web-based communication infrastructures are crucial to supporting true collaboration among physicians, patients and other members of the care continuum – saving time, reducing costs and improving workflow."

Soarian Community Access is designed to meet the community-wide need for secure access to comprehensive clinical information across the continuum of care. It enables patients to request an appointment, referral and prescription refill online. Patients have the ability to communicate with their physician via email and view their clinical chart information such as lab results, EKGs and radiology reports online. Patients can create a Personal Health Record, which consolidates patient information in one central location that can be accessed by patients, their physicians and other healthcare professionals involved in their care.

The solution gives physicians the tools to respond to patient needs, assure privacy, and get reimbursed for their time and expertise. Communicating with colleagues is simplified, and intuitive reminder functions aid in monitoring patient tests and procedures. Daily workflow is streamlined via anytime/anywhere access to the communication network, enabling physicians to practice patient-centered healthcare.

Siemens Medical Solutions of Siemens AG (NYSE: SI) with headquarters in Malvern, Pennsylvania, and Erlangen, Germany, is one of the largest suppliers to the healthcare industry in the world. The company is known for bringing together innovative medical technologies, healthcare information systems, management consulting, and support services, to help customers achieve tangible, sustainable, clinical and financial outcomes. Employing approximately 31,000 people worldwide and operating in more than 120 countries, Siemens Medical Solutions reported sales of 7.6 billion EUR, orders of 8.6 billion EUR and group profit of 976 million EUR for fiscal 2005 (preliminary figures). More information can be obtained by visiting www.usa.siemens.com/medical-pressroom.

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Note to Editors: Soarian Community Access will be demonstrated at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) 2006 Annual Conference and Exhibition, to be held Feb. 12-16 in San Diego. Additionally, Rick MacCornack, Ph.D., Director of Quality Improvement, Northwest Physicians Network, will present, "Realizing True Community Connectivity," in the Siemens in-booth theater.