



News

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St. Clair Hospital Successfully Demonstrates ‘Meaningful Use’ Of Electronic Health Records

MT. LEBANON, Pa. (Nov. 10, 2011) — St. Clair Hospital said today it continues its progressive implementation of information technology to enhance patient care and safety by successfully demonstrating the first stage of federally-stipulated “meaningful use” of electronic health records (EHR).

EHR allows physicians to document and view comprehensive medical histories, order diagnostic testing and view the results, send electronic prescriptions to pharmacies, and view electronic alerts for potentially harmful drug interaction or allergies. Although St. Clair was an early adopter of EHR, the federal meaningful use program now stipulates how the EHR must be utilized to record patient information according to standards so it is easily exchanged to better facilitate coordination of patient care.

St. Clair is one of the first hospitals in the greater Pittsburgh region to achieve meaningful use. St. Clair completed the mandatory meaningful use period on September 29 and then attested to the results with CMS.

As of September 30, CMS reports that only 158 of the approximately 5,000 hospitals across the country have successfully attested to the Medicare meaningful use program. Virtually all hospitals that accept Medicare payments will eventually have to achieve meaningful use of their EHR system or face penalties from CMS beginning in 2015.

“Our Medical Staff and Nursing personnel readily adopted the changes we put in place. Their dedication and willingness to embrace change were key to this early achievement and will help us stay ahead of the curve in adopting new technologies” said Richard Schaeffer, Vice President and Chief Information Officer, St. Clair Hospital.

About St. Clair Hospital

St. Clair Hospital is an independent, acute care facility that provides advanced, high quality health care to more than 300,000 residents of southwestern Pennsylvania. With 525 physicians and more than 2,000 employees, St. Clair is the largest employer in Pittsburgh’s South Hills. Providing virtually every health care service that residents might need throughout their lives, the Hospital combines advanced technologies with exceptional medical expertise to ensure that the community’s health needs are met.

For more information, please visit www.stclair.org.