

Healthcare IT News

Allina among 2007 Davies winners

By *Bernie Monegain, Editor* | 09/14/07 |

CHICAGO – The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society has named the recipients of the 2007 Nicholas E. Davies Awards of Excellence.

The awards recognize achievement in healthcare information technology, specifically for the use of electronic health records.

The program is named in honor of Nicholas E. Davies, MD, a practicing physician who believed the computer-based patient record was needed to improve patient care.

The awards are given in the categories of organizational, ambulatory and public health.

The recipients will present their stories and accept their awards at the 2008 Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition, Feb. 24-28 in Orlando, Fla.

The recipients are:

Organizational

Allina Hospitals and Clinics, Minneapolis: The health system includes 11 hospitals and 65 clinics, an operation that serves Minnesota and western Wisconsin. With its vision four years ago as “One Patient, One Record,” the Allina system shares patient health information among its sites through its extensive EHR and revenue cycle design.

“This hospital system offers an outstanding example of how health IT can be implemented throughout this healthcare complex to improve the delivery of patient care,” said Brian Jacobs, MD, chair of the Davies Organizational Award committee and CMIO and executive director for the Center for Pediatric Informatics at Children’s National Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

Ambulatory

Valdez Family Clinic, San Antonio, Texas: Valdez Family Clinic is a solo-practitioner operation serving an economically disadvantaged and medically underserved community. The practice of Alicia Valdez, MD, achieving real-time data capture of data, diagnosis, orders and plans at the point of care, has decreased her average time spent per patient note from 10 to two minutes. The electronic health record enables this physician to efficiently provide care to seven exam rooms all in a four-day work week.

Village Health Partners (formerly Family Medical Specialists of Texas): Now an eight-physician practice in Plano, Texas, this family practice in a suburban community was founded in 2001 by Christopher Crow MD, and Sander Gothard MD. The EHR was implemented in 2003. The group is building a medical village with the goal to improve their lives and their patients’ lives by creating a one-stop shopping medical experience.

“It is always motivating to see how the implementation of technology can make such a positive difference in the delivery of patient care,” said Nancy R. Babbitt, chairwoman of the Davies Ambulatory Award committee and administrator for Roswell Pediatric Center, P.C. , in Alpharetta, Ga.

Public Health

Illinois-National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS), Springfield, Ill. : I-NEDSS is a Web-based application used by all 95 local health departments in Illinois and by healthcare providers and laboratory staff throughout Illinois to report and investigate infectious disease conditions, clusters and outbreaks. The I-NEDSS system has significantly increased monitoring of disease occurrences, trends and outbreaks leading to earlier event detection.

Institute for Family Health, New York City: The Institute for Family Health operates 15 community health centers, two school-based health centers, a counseling center, and eight part-time clinics that serve the homeless, providing services to minority, uninsured and disadvantaged communities throughout the Bronx, Manhattan and the Hudson Valley. All of these practices are federally qualified health centers. The Institute implemented a fully integrated EMR in 2002 with four public health initiatives to improve healthcare delivered to the community. With an emphasis on prevention, chronic disease management and the elimination of health disparities, the Institute has partnered with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to demonstrate the impact that an EMR system can have on public health.

“The value and contributions of public health become even more useful with the implementation of the electronic health record,” said Steven J. Steindel, chairman of the Public Health Davies Award committee, and senior adviser for Standards and Vocabulary, Centers for Disease Control, in Atlanta, Ga.