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MedVirginia Board Chair and CEO to Speak at Fourth Health Information Technology Summit

MedVirginia Board Chair Dr. James Ratliff, a member and former president of Virginia Urology with over 15 years of experience with evolving electronic medical records, and MedVirginia CEO Michael Matthews, widely recognized as a visionary and innovator in deploying Health Information Technology (HIT), have been invited to speak at The Fourth Health Information Technology Summit in Washington, DC, March 28 – 30, 2007. Their presentation: *Benefits and Implications of Community HIE for Practicing Physicians with EMR*, will be delivered Thursday, March 29, 2007, at 2:00 p.m.

The diffusion of health information technology, especially electronic medical records (EMRs), remains a major thrust of American health policy. In addition to digitizing the information that providers use to care for their patients within organizations; clinicians, patients, and policymakers are increasingly supportive of securely sharing health information electronically among providers. Dr. Ratliff and Mr. Matthews will discuss the advantages of health information exchange (HIE) and the sharing of clinical information beyond organizational walls, utilizing experience gained from doing so in central Virginia.

The combination of this past year's activities has proved to be a catalyst in advancing the development of industry standards for interoperability, enabling the flow of clinical and administrative data among key stakeholders, and demonstrating its importance for encouraging health care IT investment. This year, the Summit, co-hosted by the eHealth Initiative and Bridges to Excellence, will include an in-depth look at rapidly emerging policy changes related to both quality and HIT, touching on financial, clinical quality, organizational, legal, technical, and privacy-related issues. For more information about the conference, visit: www.hitsummit.com.

About MedVirginia

MedVirginia LLC, established in 2000, is a provider-owned organization based in Richmond, VA. Its organizational purpose is to improve quality, safety and efficiency through the use of health information technology. At its core is *MedVirginia Solution*, a community-based health information exchange linking clinical data from physicians, hospitals, labs and pharmacies. In January 2006, MedVirginia's RHIO became operational, making it among the first "live" RHIOs in the U.S. On February 28, 2007 Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced that MedVirginia will receive funding from the Virginia Health Information Technology (HIT) Council. The funding will allow MedVirginia to provide electronic prescribing, medication history and other clinical information to selected physicians serving employees of the Commonwealth.

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