

ACCESS OC TO IMPLEMENT SYSTEM THAT FACILITATES REFERRALS, IMPROVES COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS AND SPECIALISTS

eConsult, created specifically for Access OC by Newport Beach, Calif.-based NetChemistry, is expected to save money and time by ensuring referrals to specialists are appropriate and patients are prepared.

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIF. (October 1, 2009) – Access OC, best known for providing specialty medical care and surgeries to low income and uninsured individuals in Orange County, has announced it will implement an innovative, web-based secure messaging system designed to improve communication between primary care physicians and specialists.

eConsult, as the system will be called, will enable primary-care physicians and specialists to discuss how to better manage patients and what tests or information is needed for a complete and appropriate referral before a visit is scheduled. It is also expected to lower costs by eliminating redundancies in testing and decreasing unnecessary referrals to specialists.

According to Chris Cruttenden, president of NetChemistry, eConsult was modeled after the e-referral system already used in San Francisco and an eConsult pilot by LA Care.

"The use of an electronic referral system in Northern California has demonstrated significant potential to save time and resources, while ensuring that patients receive needed care promptly," Cruttenden said. "This type of system is particularly urgent as demand for care continues to increase as a result of increasing unemployment, loss of health insurance, pressure on the public payers and skyrocketing health care costs. There is no better time than now to implement a program with the ability to reduce costs while simultaneously improving access and outcomes."

ABOUT ACCESS OC

Access OC is improving the health of vulnerable people by providing access to medical specialists in a high quality, cost-effective manner. Building on the success of its initial outpatient surgery volunteer program established in 2007, Access OC is developing several innovative specialty care programs that will continue to serve the low income and uninsured in Orange County. Access OC has received grant funding to initiate two additional specialty care programs, eConsult and telemedicine, both of which use health information technology to improve care. For more information please visit www.accessoc.org.

Access OC is a project of the Health Funders Partnership of Orange County (HFPOC), a collaboration of organizations whose mission is to enhance the impact and efficiency of health philanthropy and health-service delivery in Orange County. Member organizations include foundation, corporate, private non-profit and public sector funders. For more information please visit www.hfpoc.org

ABOUT NETCHEMISTRY

NetChemistry is an Internet solution and software provider to the Health Services industry whose systems have handled billions of dollars in transactions. Combining vertical expertise with their Core Product Suite, NetChemistry specializes in Web-based information enrollment, distribution and tracking systems comprised of secure, scalable software modules that can be rapidly customized to fit the different parameters of each client's needs.

In addition to software development, NetChemistry provides design architecture, systems integration and managed hosting. For more information on NetChemistry or its services, contact NetChemistry at 4600 Campus Drive, Suite 101, Newport Beach, Calif., 92660; phone: (949) 399-5380; or visit www.netchemistry.com

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