Sept. 22, 2011

Electronic Health Record Implementation Enters Final Stages

Patients will be the ultimate winners as Creighton Medical Associates (CMA) prepares to complete the launch of its Electronic Health Record System.

“As tough as it’s been at times, we didn’t do this to increase patient volumes. We did it to provide the best patient care, attract new patients, and recruit the best faculty and residents,” said Stephen Lanspa, M.D., CMA president.

EHR will give CMA providers the resources needed to ensure the most appropriate medical care for patients while reducing complications, including drug errors, he noted. In addition, providers will be able to adopt new evidence-based guidelines and protocols more quickly.

There are economic incentives as well for the adoption of EHR at this time, he said.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009 provides incentive payments for Medicare-eligible professionals (EPs) – doctors of medicine or osteopathy, doctors of oral surgery or dental medicine, doctors of podiatric medicine, doctors of optometry, and chiropractors – who are meaningful users of EHR technology.

To be eligible for the maximum Medicare reimbursement, EPs must begin participation by 2012, Dr. Lanspa noted. Another economic factor driving CMA’s implementation schedule was the availability of federal stimulus dollars to help finance the project.

That means that CMA, with the unfledgling support of Creighton University's Division of Information Technology, has been on the fast track for getting EHR up and running. IT team leader Tom Haley said the EHR system should be fully operational at all CMA clinics by Dec. 31, 2011. Implementation began in September 2010 in the Old Market Clinic.

“With any new system, there are always some things that aren’t optimal at first,” Haley said. “Overall, the implementation has gone well and providers are adapting, which is a credit to our faculty. “

As an example, EHR has not negatively impacted receivables, but it may have temporarily created a charge lag time while users become accustomed to the system and learn to document services in a timely manner.

Michael Davidian, M.D., associate professor of medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine, noted that there are both benefits and drawbacks to EHR.

“There are lots of positives,” he noted. For instance, EHR allows him instant access to patient information from home or work at any time of the day – as long as he has Internet access. Ultimately, electronic records will result in better patient care through more accurate, complete and accessible medical records, he said.
But he echoed common frustrations voiced by other physicians – at CMA and elsewhere – about the amount of data entry required with EHR, including a “redundancy” of patient information. He said the computer entry that takes place in the exam room interferes with physician-patient interaction and reduces the number of patients he can treat.

“The process is very time-consuming; the software was not set up by doctors,” said Dr. Davidian, who has served as faculty team leader for EHR implementation in Creighton’s Department of Medicine.

Dennis Esterbrooks, M.D., chief of cardiology and physician champion on the EHR implementation team, said it’s been a challenge to transfer paper records into an electronic format.

“It’s a little more tedious and takes more time, but I think we will see the upside in 12 to 18 months with more accurate billing,” he commented. In addition, CMA physicians will be able to look at “quality metrics to see how we are performing.”

Drs. Lanspa, Davidian and Esterbrooks, and Brian Young, Creighton University vice president for Information Technology and chief information officer, gave high praise to Haley and the IT team for their response to correcting software glitches, meeting user training needs and responding promptly to user concerns and more.

“The implementation of Creighton’s electronic health record will be a tremendous technological enhancement for patient care,” Young said. “I am extremely proud of the women and men in Information Technology who have worked hard to keep this implementation on track and on budget, Young said.

Two OB/GYN Join Creighton

Heidi Edsill, M.D., and Christopher Glowacki, M.D., have joined Creighton Women’s Health Center as obstetricians/gynecologists in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. They will also serve as assistant professors of obstetrics and gynecology at Creighton University School of Medicine.

Dr. Edsill earned her medical degree in 2007 from Creighton University, where she completed clerkships in psychiatry and in gynecology/oncology. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Minnesota in 2011. She is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Association.

She will see patients at Creighton Women’s Health Center – West at 2514 S. 119th St. To schedule a patient appointment, call 402.597.2730.

Dr. Glowacki has a special interest in high-risk pregnancies and minimally invasive and robotic surgery. He has previously been involved in research of metformin and outcomes in patients with epithelial ovarian carcinoma.

He earned his medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine in 2007 and completed an internship and residency in obstetrics/gynecology at University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2011. He is a member of the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Carcinoma and a junior fellow with the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Glowacki will see patients at Creighton University Medical Center. To schedule a patient appointment, call 402.280.4410.
Brumback Honored by Alma Mater

Roger Brumback, M.D., Creighton professor of pathology, psychiatry and neurology, has been recognized by his alma mater, Penn State College of Medicine. Dr. Brumback graduated with Penn State’s first medical class in 1971.

His accomplishments are featured in the college’s recent published book on “Forty Careers in Medicine – Four Decades of Shaping the Future of Medicine”. The book highlights key milestones in Penn State College of Medicine’s history as well as profiles on famous alumni. The 40 alumni featured “represent a variety of careers and all are examples of the extraordinary contributions that College of Medicine alumni and leaders have made to advance medical science and clinical practice,” the publication noted. This portrait of Brumback appears in the book.

Swanson Gets NIH Grant to Investigate Novel Protein Complex

Patrick Swanson, Ph.D., in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, was recently awarded a one-year $361,250 NIH grant to investigate the function of a novel protein complex that researchers in his laboratory have shown is necessary to support a DNA rearrangement process in B cells that is involved in assembling the genes that encode antibodies. Understanding how this complex regulates the introduction and repair of chromosomal DNA breaks that occur during this DNA rearrangement process will provide greater insight into how defects in this process may lead to B cell immune deficiency or cancer.

Creighton Continuing Ed First to Earn Joint Accreditation

Creighton University Health Sciences Continuing Education, formerly known as Creighton Continuing Medical Education, has become the first U.S. academic health sciences center to earn joint accreditation from three professional organizations, University officials announced today.

The joint accreditation was made available for the first time in 2010. It includes endorsements from Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and American Nurses Credentialing Center and recognizes organizations that offer team-focused continuing education to health care providers with the ultimate goal of improving patient care.

To achieve joint accreditation, continuing education providers must meet rigorous standards for educational quality and demonstrate their programs are free from commercial bias, based on valid content, and effective in improving the quality and safety of health care delivered by multidisciplinary teams.

“Our unique joint accreditation underscores the depth of Creighton’s commitment to enhancing the quality of health care in the 21st century,” said Donald R. Frey, M.D., University vice president for health sciences, and Roland L. Kleeberger, M.D., Professor of Family Medicine. Read more

Pictured: Creighton self-study team for joint accreditation. Sally O’Neill, Ph.D., HSCE associate vice president, spearheaded the effort.
The following Creighton Health Sciences Continuing Education (HSCE) events are scheduled through Oct. 1. For more information, call 402.280.1830 or visit http://cme.creighton.edu. If you have a topic you would like HSCE to cover or if you are interested in being a HSCE speaker or course director, contact Sally O’Neill, Ph.D., at (402) 280-1830 or saoneill@creighton.edu.

**September 28, 2011**
**Alpha Sigma Nu/Thomas Timothy Smith, MD** Presentation
**Speaker:** John Curtin, M.D.
**Category 1 Credits:** No continuing education credit offered.
**Location:** Creighton University Mike & Josie Harper Center
**Flyer:** Promotional flyer in production.

**September 28, 2011**
**Manometry Hands-on Course**
**Category 1 Credits:** 5
**Location:** CUMC Surgical Classroom
**Brochure:** View the promotional brochure for this event.
**Registration:** Register online for this event.

**September 29-30, 2011**
**9th Annual Esophageal Conference**
**Category 1 Credits:** 13.25
**Location:** CenturyLink Center (formerly Quest Center Omaha)
**Brochure:** View the promotional brochure for this event.
**Registration:** Register online for this event.

**October 1, 2011**
**Barrett’s Management Course**
**Category 1 Credits:** 6
**Location:** CUMC Becic Conference Room
**Brochure:** View the promotional brochure for this event.
**Registration:** Register online for this event.

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