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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recognize the Reality of EHR Interoperability

Members of the HIMSS Electronic Health Record Association (EHR Association) will communicate their unified message on the reality of interoperability at NCHICA

GREENSBORO, NC (Sept. 3, 2008) – Collaborating to accelerate, and applaud, the nationwide adoption of interoperable electronic health records, the HIMSS Electronic Health Record Association will offer member insights into the value of connected care using interoperable EHRs at the 14th annual [North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance \(NCHICA\) Conference & Exhibition](#), which will be held in Greensboro, NC from Sept. 7-10. The session, [Using Interoperable EHRs to Connect Care](#), is scheduled for Sept. 9 from 3:40-4:40 p.m. EDT.

“The NCHICA conference offers a valuable opportunity for us to share our experiences with and expectations for standards-based interoperability,” said Justin Barnes, chairman of the EHR Association and vice president of marketing and government affairs for Greenway Medical Technologies in Carrollton, Ga. “Our members consistently work together to develop EHR solutions that support standards-based interoperability, a collaboration that demonstrates our commitment to improving the quality of patient care as well as the productivity and sustainability of our healthcare system.”

Members of the EHR Association work daily with other healthcare organizations to guide them in the implementation of health IT and EHR systems, and thus, have first-hand examples of implementation success and challenges. These real-life scenarios will be part of the presentation at NCHICA as attendees learn more about the organization and its mission and follow the [EHRA Interoperability Roadmap](#).

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Developed by the EHR Association, the interoperability roadmap supports the nationwide goal of interoperable EHRs and serves as a guide for other healthcare organizations and health IT companies to follow.

The session also will include a panel presentation of companies that provide ambulatory and / or enterprise EHR solutions who will use customer scenarios to explain their plans to incorporate standards into their products. Presentation and panel participants include: e-MDs, Greenway Medical Technologies, MEDITECH, Misys and Siemens Medical Solutions.

“NCHICA is pleased and honored to have the EHR Association’s participation in our conference for the third year,” said Holt Anderson, executive director of NCHICA. “The protocols from this group of EHR software providers offer a practical basis for improving health and healthcare for consumers in a community where they are seen in different settings with electronic systems from competing vendors. Interoperability at this level will improve patient outcomes and safety through improved information flow and access.”

Visit the [HIMSS EHR Association Web site](#) to view the video that will be shown during the education session.

Please note: The HIMSS Electronic Health Record Vendors Association is now the *HIMSS Electronic Health Record Association*, as reflected in this news release and the presentation at NCHICA. The organization’s Web site at <http://www.himssehrva.org> is being updated and will reflect the new name and logo. The links in this release contain the original name of EHRVA since the Web site update is in process.

About HIMSS EHR Association

HIMSS EHRA is a trade association of Electronic Health Record (EHR) companies that join together to lead the health information technology industry in the accelerated adoption of EHRs in hospital and ambulatory care settings in the US. Representing a substantial portion of the installed EHR systems in the US, the association provides a forum for the EHR software community to speak with a unified voice relative to standards development, the EHR certification process, interoperability, performance and quality measures, and other EHR issues as they become subject to increasing government, insurance and provider driven initiatives and requests. Membership is open to HIMSS corporate members with legally formed companies designing, developing and marketing their own commercially available EHRs with installations in the US. The association, comprised of more than 40 member companies, is a partner of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and operates as an independent organizational unit within HIMSS. For more information, visit <http://www.himssehrva.org>.

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About HIMSS

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) is the healthcare industry's membership organization exclusively focused on providing global leadership for the optimal use of healthcare information technology (IT) and management systems for the betterment of healthcare. Founded in 1961 with offices in Chicago, Washington D.C., Brussels, and other locations across the United States and Europe, HIMSS represents more than 20,000 individual members and over 350 corporate members that collectively represent organizations employing millions of people. HIMSS frames and leads healthcare public policy and industry practices through its advocacy, educational and professional development initiatives designed to promote information and management systems' contributions to ensuring quality patient care. Visit www.himss.org for more information.

About NCHICA

The North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc. (NCHICA) is a nonprofit consortium of 230 organization dedicated to improving healthcare in North Carolina by accelerating the adoption of information technology. NCHICA members include: hospitals and clinics; medical and dental practices; professional societies and nonprofit associations; national, state and local health agencies; health plans; law firms; healthcare and IT consulting firms/vendors; health education and training providers; and research organizations. For more information, visit www.nchica.org.

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