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SWEENY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL BECOMES A HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PIONEER: Sweeny Is One of the Few Rural Community Hospitals in the US to Implement an Electronic Medical Record and Order Entry System

AUSTIN, Texas – January 22, 2008 – Sweeny Community Hospital of Brazoria County, Texas announced today at the Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals’ (TORCH) 2008 Rural Hospital Information Technology Conference that it went live with a state of the art electronic medical record (EMR) system on January 2, 2008. In three weeks, clinicians have entered over 1,200 orders electronically on over 360 patients in Sweeny’s emergency department and hospital units. Sweeny clinicians and management worked closely with their EMR vendor, Prognosis Health Information Systems, to configure custom order lists and sets tailored to the needs of their clinicians and patient population.

In 2000, a group of large employers founded the Leapfrog Group to “trigger giant leaps forward in the safety, quality, and affordability of health care.” Leapfrog identified computer physician order entry (CPOE) as the first of four “great leaps” in improving health care in the US. In 2001, the US Institute of Medicine stated: “The automation of clinical, financial and administrative information and the electronic sharing of such information among clinicians, patients and appropriate others within a secure environment are critical if the 21st century health care system is to be realized.”

In contrast to the needs identified above, the American Hospital Association reported in 2007 that only 16% of urban hospitals and 5% of rural hospitals have a fully implemented EMR. Sweeny Community Hospital has become a pioneer among US hospitals by implementing an EMR with CPOE and full medication management functions. “We were very fortunate to have this opportunity to partner with Prognosis Health Information Systems. The quality of care we provide to the residents of the Sweeny Hospital District and surrounding communities will be enhanced,” said William H. Barnes, the Administrator & CEO of Sweeny Community Hospital. “The physicians, board, and employees of the hospital are very excited to implement this system.”

Visionary leadership with commitment to continuous improvement and technology adoption has positioned Sweeny to bring 21st century health care to the residents of Brazoria County. “Sweeny’s management decided very quickly to implement our ChartAccess™ EMR product, and mobilized their people and resources to execute the implementation in record time,” said John C. Joe, MD, MPH, the Chief Medical Officer of Prognosis Health Information Systems.

About Sweeny Community Hospital

The Sweeny Hospital District is the major health care provider in southwestern Brazoria County, with Sweeny Community Hospital (SCH) leading the way in providing convenient, cost-effective care since its inception in March 1965. The hospital expanded its services in 2002 when voters approved a \$10 million bond issue to pay for a new medical office building, a 27-unit assisted living community, and hospital renovations including a \$2.1 million Emergency Department staffed around the clock by physicians and registered nurses. More information about SCH is available at www.sweenyhospital.org.

About Prognosis Health Information Systems

Prognosis Health Information Systems (PHIS) produces the ChartAccess™ hospital electronic medical record system, one of only six such products certified by the US Certification Commission for Health Information Technology. PHIS is the progeny of an eight year old hospital business software vendor and a 35 year old medical records service and software vendor which have provided products and services to hospitals across America. PHIS specializes in providing community hospitals with revolutionary core clinical information systems that deliver superior function, usability, and value. More information about PHIS is available at www.prognosishis.com.

About ChartAccess™ Inpatient EMR System

ChartAccess™ Inpatient EMR system is a next-generation software application that replaces the paper hospital chart and provides clinicians with a complete view of their patients and data to support optimal and safe patient care. It places information at the healthcare provider's fingertips through single sign-on and intuitive user interfaces. ChartAccess™ provides patient tracking, multi-disciplinary clinician and physician documentation, closed loop order entry (CPOE) and medication administration (eMAR), as well as integration with departmental information systems. As a web-based application, ChartAccess™ is easy to install and maintain. More information about ChartAccess™ is available at www.prognosishis.com.

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