

Swedish Partners with The Polyclinic to Implement, Support 'One Patient, One Chart' Electronic Health Record

SEATTLE , April 21, 2009 – Last week Swedish Medical Center signed a contract with The Polyclinic to partner with the multi-specialty clinic in their implementation of the same Electronic Health Record (EHR) system – Epic (www.epicsystems.com) – that Swedish uses between its four campuses (First Hill, Cherry Hill, Ballard and Issaquah) and roughly 40 specialty and primary care clinics.



Linking the Medical Community Means Better Patient Care

Once Epic is available to The Polyclinic's physicians, who are all on the Swedish medical staff, it will provide them real-time access to a patient's medical history, eliminating the need to physically transfer medical records from one facility to another.

Both organizations share the vision of 'one patient, one chart' – which means regardless of where a patient is seen, their entire health record will be available to the physicians caring for them. "This helps speed up diagnosis, reduces the risk of allergic reactions and avoids duplication of tests that have already been done," says Polyclinic Medical Director [Dr. Michael Tronolone](#). "In addition to being better care, this will improve the patient experience, and ultimately save patients, insurers and employers money."

"Being on the same EHR system as Swedish makes the most sense for patient care and safety," said [Lloyd David](#), executive director/CEO of The Polyclinic. The Polyclinic will roll out Epic in its 15 clinics in a systematic approach, aiming to go live with the first clinics this fall and complete full installation before the end of 2010.

As Swedish did, The Polyclinic looked at other EHR systems before choosing Epic. "Now that we've made the decision to move forward with this important initiative, our physicians and staff people are very excited to begin working with Swedish to bring a proven EHR system to our organization," said David. "Once our Epic implementation is complete, it will be a major advance in putting a more complete patient record in the hands of our physicians, when and where needed, at the point of care."

A Partnership that Puts the Patients' Interests First

"We spent two years looking for the right EHR before selecting Epic," said David. "We're making a substantial investment, and although Epic is an expensive option, our partnership with Swedish is making it possible for us to do this. Without this partnership, it would take us longer and at a higher cost." David points out that a partnership of this kind is unique and demonstrates the trust between the two organizations.

"Our partnership is a testament to Swedish's long-term, positive relationship with The Polyclinic and its providers," said Swedish CEO [Rod Hochman, M.D.](#) "This expansion of Epic to The Polyclinic will support both organizations' care-delivery systems. There is nothing better for a clinician or patient than coordinated care and connection for all the physicians. That's part of our big picture. We feel that as a not-for-profit health system, its part of our mission to make that happen."

An EHR Model for the Future

“This partnership is especially timely knowing that development of EHR systems is a priority for the Obama administration as a key element to helping with national health-care reform,” said Hochman. “In fact, we’re already pursuing federal stimulus funds to help try and recoup some of our collective costs.”

According to Judy Faulkner, founder and CEO of Epic Systems, it’s notable that Swedish and The Polyclinic are coming together to benefit from a shared EHR strategy. “Patients of both organizations will receive more continuous care and benefit,” said Faulkner. “We certainly applaud that and are very excited to help support this endeavor.”

Though this is Swedish’s first such Epic partnership, the medical center believes this ‘hub-and-spoke’ model will be of interest to dozens of other independent clinics throughout the region that may want to take advantage of the shared approach to EHR implementation and support.

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About The Polyclinic

The Polyclinic is one of the largest multi-specialty clinics in the Puget Sound area, with more than 150 primary care and specialty physicians in most areas of medicine. Established in 1917, The Polyclinic has a long tradition of delivering high quality, comprehensive, personalized care. For more information, visit www.polyclinic.com

About Swedish

Swedish is the largest, most comprehensive nonprofit health provider in the Greater Seattle area. It is comprised of three hospital campuses – First Hill, Cherry Hill and Ballard – a freestanding emergency department and specialty center in Issaquah, Swedish Visiting Nurse Services, and the Swedish Physician Division – a network of about 40 primary-care and specialty clinics. In addition to general medical and surgical care, Swedish is known as a regional referral center, providing specialized treatment in areas such as cardiovascular care, cancer care, neuroscience, orthopedics, high-risk obstetrics, pediatrics, organ transplantation and clinical research. For more information, visit www.swedish.org