

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **eHealth Collaboratory Successfully Completes First Operational Phase with Ten Participating Vendors and Gears Up for Ongoing Services**

**Toronto, April 28, 2006** - The eHealth Collaboratory (Collaboratory) is pleased to announce that 10 vendors have successfully participated in a unique Canadian initiative which demonstrates a commitment to standards-based, interoperable electronic health record solutions.

The Collaboratory is a joint initiative of Canada Health Infoway (*Infoway*) and the Centre for Global eHealth Innovation (Centre). It provides vendors and purchasers of electronic health records with access to services that support and accelerate the implementation of interoperable and usable solutions.

In its first operational phase, ending on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2006, the Collaboratory's primary focus was on implementing assessment services to demonstrate and evaluate the interoperability and usability of electronic health record (EHR) solutions for the "Physician's Office of the Future".

Through this initiative, vendors collaborated in structured working sessions to highlight key features of EHR systems based on pan-Canadian standards and desired functionality within the context of a Physician's Office of the Future scenario. In addition, family practice physicians worked closely with the Collaboratory's human factors specialists to provide feedback on clinical applications via heuristic and end user usability assessments.

The following vendors worked closely with the Collaboratory in this phase:

- [ABELSoft](#) (ABELMed-CMS)
- [B-Sharp Technologies](#) (B Care)
- [Dapasoft](#) (Long-term Care Solution)
- [Dinmar](#) (Oacis)
- [Initiate Systems Inc.](#) (Identity Hub)
- [KATSI Canada](#) (MedAZ)
- [MDI Solutions](#) (MD Link)
- [Sentillion Inc](#) (Vergence)
- [VisualMED Solutions](#)
- [xwave](#) (Centricity Physician Office EMR)

The activities of this first phase culminated in a Collaboratory joint vendor solution demonstration event on April 7<sup>th</sup>, where Dr. Alex Jadad, Director of the Centre and Co-Chair of the eHealth Collaboratory, thanked the vendor participants for "their commitment to an innovative approach to interoperable standards-based EHR solutions for Canada that will be a model not only here, but around the world."

Participating vendors were enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with the Collaboratory's expert team and facilities. "We have already realized significant benefits by participating in the Collaboratory, via newly formed business relationships with participating vendors and exposure to new clients. Speaking from a vendor perspective, I was wowed by the Collaboratory team, who successfully linked software from six (6) separate vendors in less than 3 months, and demonstrated a cohesive Electronic Health Record model" commented Terry Durette, Vice-President, Sales and Service, MDI Solutions.

Vendors, who were selected from among 61 respondents to the Collaboratory's Request for Expression of Interest issued in August 2005, represent the full spectrum necessary to demonstrate interoperable solutions – electronic medical record, electronic health record viewer, integration engine, client registry, and identity management products - as well as products that enhance the information collection and access process such as e-forms and proximity badge or fingerprint identification tools.

The Collaboratory has identified the set of value-added services it will be providing on a go-forward basis. These services are fully aligned to the needs of the HER vendors and purchasers for standards-based evaluation services, usability assessments and support across the procurement process. "Buyers and sellers gain a higher level of assurance that their technology serves the needs of providers and patients, through assessment and certification of systems for functionality, usability and interoperability", says Dennis Giokas, Infoway's Chief Technology Officer. The Collaboratory will be announcing the details about these services in the coming weeks.



Left to right: Matt Anderson CIO, UHN; Dennis Giokas, CTO, Canada Health Infoway; and Nadeem Ahmed, Healthcare, xwave.

For more information about the eHealth Collaboratory, please go to <http://www.ehealthcollaboratory.ca>

**About Canada Health Infoway**

*Infoway* is an independent not-for-profit organization that invests with public sector partners across Canada to implement and reuse compatible health information systems which support a safer, more efficient healthcare system. These systems provide healthcare professionals with rapid access to complete and accurate patient information, enabling better decisions about treatment and diagnosis. The result is a sustainable, healthcare system offering improved quality, accessibility and productivity.

**About the Centre for Global eHealth Innovation**

The Centre for Global eHealth Innovation's facilities include 15,000 square feet of space located in the heart of Toronto's technological, academic and commercial core. The lab facilities of the Centre include a state-of-the art Usability Laboratory and a Multi-Tasking Simulation Laboratory exclusively dedicated to the study of eHealth innovations. Labs are equipped with multi-media technologies, testing rooms with observation space, and props and theatre staging sets that simulate virtually any setting where health-related decisions are made (clinics, hospital wards, operating theatres, pharmacies, emergency rooms, homes, workplaces). Using the physical facilities of the Centre and its powerful virtual infrastructure, technology experts, usability professionals, research methodologists, project managers, knowledge management specialists and end users (clinicians, members of the public, policymakers and administrators) work on diverse projects along with partners and associates from across Canada and around the world, building economies of scale to accelerate the transformation of the health system in the information age.

[www.ehealthinnovation.org](http://www.ehealthinnovation.org)

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