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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Stronger Voice for Strategic Programs, HIMSS and AMDIS Develop the HIMSS Physician Community

The new membership community will enable physicians to gain the knowledge and skills needed to improve the delivery of patient care with health IT

CHICAGO and LAKE ALMANOR, Calif. (June 11, 2007) – Recognizing the strategic role that physicians play in the development and implementation of health information technology (HIT) and management systems, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and the Association of Medical Directors of Information Systems (AMDIS) have joined forces to form the HIMSS Physician Community.

The Purpose of the HIMSS Physician Community

The community's purpose is to "articulate a cohesive voice for HIMSS physicians and to provide leadership, guidance and domain expertise to HIMSS' activities, industry initiatives, and collaborations with physicians societies across the country," as stated in the agreement. The alliance between the two organizations formalizes all efforts for a more focused strategy within HIMSS for physicians engaged in health IT and management systems.

"AMDIS is dedicated to advance the field of applied medical informatics and improve the practice of medicine through direct physician use of information technology, said Richard L. Rydell, MBA, AMDIS president and executive director. "The AMDIS / HIMSS alliance will help us achieve our goals."

"HIMSS welcomes this opportunity to align with AMDIS and provide our physician members with the leadership, guidance and domain expertise to the Society's activities," said H. Stephen Lieber, HIMSS president/CEO. "This collaboration will strengthen the outreach to these clinicians for both organizations."

Already aligned in joint programming, HIMSS and AMDIS (with other co-sponsors) have offered the Physician' IT Symposium for several years at the Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition. Each year, the registration for this symposium has grown with more than 300 registering for this event in 2007. This symposium and other new educational offerings, represent the types of joint initiatives to come.

Member Benefits

Any physician member of HIMSS or AMDIS can actively engage in the Physician Community at no additional cost. The Community will focus on four areas:

- Tools, resources, education, research and professional development for physicians engaged in the development, implementation, and/or use of IT and management systems
- Forming public policy initiatives that can impact the quality, safety, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of patient care
- Forming private-sector initiatives that can impact the way in which physicians interact with their patients, clinical administrative staff and other physicians and insurance companies
- Forming standards and interoperability initiatives that can impact physicians' workflow and improve access to information

The new member community will be governed by an 11 member Steering Committee with both organizations jointly staffing and providing volunteers.

Steering Committee members are: Ray Aller, MD; Michael Blum, MD; William Bria, MD; Richard Gibson, MD; Patricia Hale, MD; Brian Jacobs, MD; Howard Landa, MD; Kevin McEnery, MD; Holly Miller, MD; Michael Shabot, MD; Carol Steltenkamp, MD

The initial meeting of the HIMSS Physician Community Steering Committee is July 24 at the 16th Annual PHYSICIAN-COMPUTER CONNECTION Symposium at the Ojai Valley Inn, Ojai, California. For information about the PCC Symposium, please visit www.amdis.org.

Information regarding this new initiative will be available on the HIMSS and AMDIS Web sites.

About AMDIS
The Association of Medical Directors of Information Systems is the premier non profit physician membership organization dedicated to advance the field of applied medical informatics. AMDIS has over 1,800 members worldwide and is the home of the "connected" CMIO. Visit www.amdis.org for more information.

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 300 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.