Phase II Focus—Asthma and Obesity at Four Nemours Locations

The Nemours GLIDES team, led by Dr. Ian Nathanson, includes a multidisciplinary staff consisting of clinical experts in asthma and obesity, medical informatics, computer programming, project management and health services research.

Nemours Asthma: GLIDES Asthma development work is reaching completion. Enhancements were made to Nemours EPIC EHR tools to integrate Clinical Decision Support (CDS) into existing workflows. The team created a template in EpicCare, the Asthma SmartForm, to collect the critical data elements necessary for informed decision making within the NHLBI 3 framework. The SmartForm contains active guidelines that allow the clinician to view relevant clinical practice guidelines and associated recommended actions. A rules engine was built to assist with codifying and documenting the critical decision variables to calculate asthma severity and control. Some of the NHLBI guidelines required clarification.

At the Florida pulmonology sites in 2008, there were 7,284 patient encounters, involving 3,764 unique children.

Nemours Obesity: The Nemours GLIDES team is currently in the development phase for Obesity. The team reviewed the GEMCutter output and completed a crosswalk to identify how the information is collected using existing EHR tools and potential improvements that could be made to meet guideline recommendations. The team has created a plan for the improvements and has started development. The Obesity guidelines, as with Asthma, required some adaptation to clarify and tailor recommendations.

In 2008, there were 42,074 well child encounters.

Nemours Founded in 1935, Nemours is one of the largest pediatric health providers in the United States. Over 400 physicians provide care at locations in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Florida. Nemours offers most pediatric subspecialty services, including endocrinology, hematology/oncology, neurology, ENT, infectious disease, gastroenterology, cardiology, pulmonology, rheumatology, ophthalmology, cardiac surgery, orthopedics, ENT, pediatric surgery, solid organ transplant services, imaging, anesthesia, pediatric and neonatal intensive care, hospitalists, psychology, psychiatry, general pediatrics, research and education.
Clinical Computing At Nemours

The Nemours Board of Directors has long recognized that clinical software applications are required for safe and high quality care. A two year roll out of EpicCare (Epic Systems Corporation) through 23 ambulatory specialties was completed in 1999. A read-only “web version” of the outpatient record was replaced by a fully functional version delivered by Citrix in 2002. e-Prescribing has been offered since July 2008 and use has been encouraging with a December 2008 rate of 35%. Nemours providers now have a complete version of the outpatient medical record 24 hours a day anywhere there is an internet connection.

Nemours also offers several e-Health applications. In 2004 the Physician Portal (NemoursLink) was implemented which permits a complete read only view of the patient record to community physicians. Soon, direct referral and scheduling along with messaging about specific patient care from the referral base to the sub-specialists will be available through the physician portal. The Patient Portal application (MyNemours) is live in primary care clinics and roll out to the specialties is expected this year. A particularly exciting feature is the content support offered through MyNemours.

KidsHealth.org, the world’s most visited web site for child and family health content (>10M visitors/month) is a web offering from Nemours Children’s Health Media and supports the MyNemours application with their award winning content “hotlinked” by diagnosis, procedures, and medication. Comprehensive and consumer friendly pharmacy content (Lexicomp) is likewise linked through MyNemours.

Believing that a single platform is the only expedient way to provide a seamless care experience, Nemours decided to license the full suite of EPIC products in 2006. The Epic Inpatient suite will fully replace and augment the current computing environment. Nemours will then be a completely paperless enterprise, using a single EHR system.

TEP Meeting in Orlando

In February, GLIDES will meet with the AHRQ Technical Expert Panel (TEP) in Orlando, FL. The Clinical Decision Support Consortium (CDSC) team, another AHRQ contractor, will also participate. The GLIDES and CDSC teams will discuss key CDS-related challenges with the TEP, within the following categories: CDS System Design; CDS In Clinical Workflow Context; Evaluation Of CDS Effectiveness; CCHIT Recommendations; Guideline Developer Recommendations; Maintainability; Scalability; Systemic/Organizational. The Nemours team will host the meeting, and results will be included in future GLIDES and CDSC dissemination and publication efforts.

CDS Design Workshop

AHRQ, working with Vanderbilt University has organized a CDS design workshop with GLIDES and CDSC staff. The focus is on CDS for the provider, and will address CDS design-related questions, including: What is consensus in the context of CDS? How do we achieve guidance on what “must be”, and what is “optional”? What are the optimal governance roles? What level-of-detail is required for meaningful impact? Who is accountable for ensuring a given CDS rule is executed? How does this impact providers not responding to CDS? What is the output of a CDS instance? Is this a service, or is it the UI? What policies are necessary to ensure effective alerts? How do we monitor response to CDS?