Medtronic Launches CareLink Express(TM) Service

The Associated Press

Pilot Shows New Remote Monitoring Service Allows Quick Access to Care for Patients

MINNEAPOLIS - August 14, 2012 - In line with the Company's commitment to provide superior economic value to customers, Medtronic, Inc. (NYSE: MDT), today announced the U.S. launch of the CareLink Express(TM) Service. This service is a remote monitoring system that enables clinicians in healthcare facilities to quickly obtain data regarding the status of Medtronic implanted cardiac devices, facilitating faster treatment decisions. An industry-first, the service sets a new industry standard in connectivity by enabling a device expert to remotely review device data and send the information to the hospital within minutes.

"In line with Medtronic's stated goal of offering products and services that provide enhanced economic value to hospitals and clinicians, our data shows that CareLink Express reduces burdens on physicians and hospitals by increasing workflow efficiency and reducing operating costs," said Pat Mackin, senior vice president and president of the Cardiac Rhythm Disease Management business at Medtronic. "These efficiencies demonstrate that quality of care and cost reduction can work hand-in-hand; it's not necessary to diminish patient care in order to reduce healthcare costs."[1]

The new service was evaluated in a 55-site pilot program over the past 6 months. In the pilot, hospitals using CareLink Express were able to reduce patient wait times from an average of 84 minutes to less than 15 minutes. [2] The reduced wait times are intended to expedite clinical decision making so that patients receive needed care sooner, and to reduce bottlenecks in expensive care settings such as the emergency room.

"Incorporating CareLink Express into our hospital has enabled us to provide better service to our cardiac device patients by providing them faster access to care, while improving our patient flow and decreasing costs related to delays that occur while waiting for device checks to be completed," said Tina Santos, vice president of patient care and chief nursing officer at Heywood Hospital in Gardner, Mass., which participated in the CareLink Express pilot program. "This new technology has the potential to significantly impact our efforts to reduce costs in our emergency departments and operating rooms." [3]

Prior to CareLink Express, when cardiac device patients visited emergency departments or operating rooms for any reason - including accidents or illnesses

unrelated to their implanted cardiac device - they often had to wait to have their implanted devices checked in-person by a qualified device expert. Especially in rural areas, this process could require multiple phone calls, extended stints in hospital waiting rooms and unnecessary trips for clinicians.[4] With CareLink Express, physicians no longer have to wait for a cardiac device expert to arrive to perform device checks; instead, physicians and device representatives remotely evaluate a patient's device status.

How CareLink Express Works

Medtronic provides healthcare facilities with a CareLink Express monitor, which is compatible with almost all Medtronic ICDs, CRT devices, ICMs and pacemakers. The one-touch monitor is used to check or "interrogate" the implanted Medtronic cardiac device.

When a patient with an implanted Medtronic cardiac device arrives at the healthcare facility, the facility staff uses the CareLink Express monitor to check the implanted device and the device data is transmitted to the CareLink® Network.

When the data is transmitted to the CareLink Network, a device expert receives an automatic notification via page or email indicating that new information is available.

The device expert reviews the information remotely and provides an assessment of the device status to the hospital.

Based on the device assessment, the healthcare facility staff determines the appropriate treatment for the patient.

The device data from CareLink Express can be automatically exported to the facility's electronic health records (EHR). In addition, the implanted device data is automatically sent via the CareLink Network to the patient's device-following physician, for immediate access.[5]

The Medtronic CareLink Network The CareLink Network is the industry's leading and longest-running remote monitoring system. CareLink provides health care providers and patients the convenience of telemedicine by remotely monitoring patients implanted with Medtronic cardiac devices and providing comprehensive data received from the implanted cardiac devices to their physicians. The CareLink Network currently serves more than 6,600 clinics and 720,000 patients in 33 countries.[6]

More than 3 million Americans have implantable cardiac devices, including pacemakers, implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICD) and implantable cardiac monitors (ICMs).[7]

In collaborating with leading clinicians, researchers and scientists, Medtronic offers the broadest range of innovative medical technology for the interventional and surgical treatment of cardiovascular disease and cardiac arrhythmias. The company strives to offer products and services that deliver clinical and economic value to

healthcare consumers and providers worldwide.

About Medtronic Medtronic, Inc. (www.medtronic.com), headquartered in Minneapolis, is the global leader in medical technology - alleviating pain, restoring health, and extending life for millions of people around the world.

Any forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties such as those described in Medtronic's periodic reports on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Actual results may differ materially from anticipated results.

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[1]CareLink Express Pilot Data (Medtronic CareLink Network, 2012)

[2]CareLink Express Pilot Data (Medtronic CareLink Network, 2012)

[3]CareLink Express Pilot Data (Medtronic CareLink Network, 2012)

[4]CareLink Express Field Evaluation (November 2011).

[5]CareLink Express Service Concept Description, Human Factors Engineering Intended Use, Human Factors Engineering Task Analysis.

[6] Medtronic CareLink Metrics Database, May 2012.

[7] Medtronic Finance Metrics, May 2012.

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