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BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Wellmont launches Epic electronic health record system

March 20th, 2014 10:49 pm by HANK HAYES



KINGSPORT — Wellmont Health System formally introduced its new electronic health record system — called Epic — to the public on Thursday.

The 18-month Epic project replaces multiple computer medical record and financial systems that were not fully integrated or able to communicate with each other.

"This is a monumental step forward because every patient will now have one electronic medical record," Wellmont Chief Operating Officer Tracey Moffatt said in a prepared release.

"The benefit for patients and the health system will be enormous

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because we will be able to rapidly see what has happened with a patient in the past and make appropriate decisions that prevent unnecessary duplication of services."

Wellmont's Epic system went live last December at its physician unit, Wellmont Medical Associates, and it is set to launch March 29 at Wellmont's hospitals and other health-care facilities.

The Internet component for patients is at www.MyWellmont.org, a secure portal for patients to review their electronic health record.

Information expected to be available through the portal includes dates and times of appointments, test results, medications and refill requests, a way to send messages to physicians, access to children's health information and a way to pay bills online.

Wellmont said that to sign up for MyWellmont, patients will be given an activation code after receiving care at a Wellmont facility or by requesting one through the web portal.

Wellmont said information stored in MyWellmont can be placed on a jump drive and taken with patients who might need medical attention during a trip.

Holston Valley Medical Center surgeon Cory Siffring noted the electronic health record will contain X-ray images, physicians' notes and other pieces of patient information.

"All of the information is displayed and within a click or two," Siffring said while demonstrating the Epic system to reporters. "On a second screen we can see X-rays from those patients. ... We are able to get all of their history ... a quick snapshot."

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