Clear your calendar for October 22 and 24! You won’t want to miss the Southeast User Conference at Lake Lanier Island’s Legacy Lodge, hosted by HealthSystems, Strategic Business Systems and Virtual OfficeWare.

This year’s conference will be bigger and better than ever because it is regional in scope, with users from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee attending. We have invited members of the GE Healthcare team to give presentations, and also sending a team of product specialists to present, assist and answer questions in the lab, and talk to users about their experiences with the Centricity product suite. As in past years, a vendor fair and computer lab are also on the schedule, and several pre-conference classes will be held on Thursday, October 22.

10/23 — Focus on PM

The conference will begin on Friday morning, with classes focused on Centricity Practice Management — EDI, remittance, eligibility, collections and more. Our keynote speaker that morning will be GE Healthcare Vice President and General Manager Mike Friguletto, who will be discussing GE’s future plans for Centricity and how the evolving solutions can be leveraged by customers to maximize their return on investment.

“I am very excited to talk to our users in the Southeast and learn more about their challenges,” Friguletto said. “I’m looking forward to telling them about where we’re going on the PM side, and we’re doing to continuously improve our product for them.”

10/24 — All About EMR

Saturday’s topics will cover Centricity EMR, including new user functionality, forms, enhancements and technical topics. The new Physician Experience Initiative (web-based) remote access feature will also be demonstrated. Our keynote speaker on Saturday will be GE Healthcare Product Manager of Clinical Content and Centricity Practice Solution Don Sepulveda, who will present a roadmap for the future of Centricity EMR and discuss what the economic stimulus plan means for practitioners. “We’re actively participating in CCHIT and other Health & Human Services initiatives,” said Sepulveda. “I’ll be explaining how we’re working to help practices make the most of all the resources and incentives available.”

Conference attendees range from administrators and office staff to physicians and other clinicians. Marcia Lowry, Office Manager for HealthSystems client Birmingham ENT, has attended every year. “We’ve trimmed our travel budget for 2009, but this is the one conference I’ve chosen to attend this year,” Lowry said. “It’s the event I know will benefit me the most. I always learn something valuable to bring back to the office.”

More details about the conference will be sent closer to the date, but mark your calendars now. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Karen Byrne at (404) 207-1295 or kbyrne@healthsystems.net.

Consider CHUG Conference in August

The Fall 2009 Centricity Healthcare User Group (CHUG) conference will take place August 28 and 29 in Washington, DC. Evans Medical Group physician and HealthSystems client Dr. Christopher Apostol is a regular attendee of CHUG conferences and highly recommends them. “Doctors often think they can’t take time away, but the efficiencies gained from these CHUG presentations and technical sessions make up for any time lost,” Apostol said. “Learning from GE experts and peers is extremely valuable in terms of helping to optimize Centricity use. Attendees really learn a lot about what the system can do.” For more information visit www.beattygroup.com/chug.htm.
You talked. GE Healthcare listened! The GE Healthcare team’s Physician Experience Initiative (PEI) is about to release its first product, a browser-access program that will allow physicians to check their EMR charts remotely via the internet. This means that physicians will be able to see a patient’s chart from wherever they log on — at the hospital, in the Emergency Department, at home, or even from their kids’ soccer games — allowing them to familiarize themselves with the patient’s condition, answer questions, okay prescription refills and generally be more effective away from the office.

In development since 2007, this first release, scheduled for October, will be a read-only program, but it does allow physicians to post flags to their desktops as reminders when they get back to the office.

“This idea was developed in direct collaboration with our customers,” said GE Healthcare IT’s Director of User Experience and Customer Collaboration Erika Orrick. “Participants in our Customer Collaboration Program have given us good feedback on the product, and we know physicians will enjoy the flexibility it provides.

“As EMR adoption takes off, it’s more important than ever to really work collaboratively with our users,” Orrick said. “We know that an easy-to-navigate, flexible solution is key.”

The new remote access program will be demonstrated in the computer lab at HealthSystems’ Southeast User Conference in October. Erica Orrick and other GE Healthcare representatives will also be on hand at the conference to answer user questions.

HealthSystems Announces HITECH Act Incentive

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the HITECH Act for Healthcare includes a package of approximately $31.2 billion for healthcare infrastructure and electronic healthcare records investment. The act is designed to accelerate the delivery of information technology to improve performance and connectivity in healthcare, ultimately reducing costs and improving patient care.

GE Healthcare has dedicated a team of experts to the bill, working directly with government officials and legislators in Washington to shape the bill and advocate for IT provisions. And to help providers prepare for HITECH Act provisions regarding electronic health records, GE has announced its own limited-time “stimulus package” that can help practices pay for their EMR systems:

• A significant discount for current Centricity PM users who add Centricity EMR, valid through September 30.
• Includes ePrescribing.
• Available with GE MQIC, certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative
• Built-in capabilities for connecting to health information exchanges.
• Our financing partner ACI Financial has designed an attractive financing plan for HealthSystems clients.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this special incentive, please call your HealthSystems account manager at (404) 207-1300. To learn more about the HITECH Act, visit www.gehealthcare.com/hitech.

Interested in Giving Your Feedback?

Want to give GE your input? GE Healthcare’s Customer Collaboration Program includes 150 participants nationwide, including clinicians. They meet monthly in small groups, concentrating on a specific topic each time, from EDI to eRx. Participants give their input, serve as GE’s testers for new ideas, and even get compensated a little for their participation! To learn more, contact Erika Orrick at Erika.orrick@ge.com or (972) 295-7457.

How to contact us...

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Online support is available at www.healthsystems.net/support.htm
**Fax Contacts & Handout Favorites**

By Randy Cook

Q: How can we add “Other Businesses” in the fax contacts?

A: For Centricity Practice Solution, to add “other businesses” to the fax selections, select a test patient, go to “registration,” and select the “additional” tab. In “employment information,” click on the binoculars by the employer line. Click on “new” in the lower left corner, “add businesses, etc.” Repeat this process for as many as you need to add. These additions will appear in the “other businesses” in the fax selection.

For EMR 2005 and 5.6: To add “other businesses” to the fax selections, Go>Setup>Settings>Registration. In the left hand dropdown select “Other Businesses” then click “new”. Type in the information and click OK.

Q: Can we create a list of handout favorites?

A: There is not a way to set preferred handout custom lists. However, users can create their own on-the-fly list of handout “favorites.” When [none] is selected in the dropdown list, a user can simply click the binoculars, then click the “more” button in the lower left corner and add a highlighted handout to their own “favorites.” This process can be continued for as many handouts as desired. The user’s personal “favorites” list will display anytime [none] is selected in the handouts custom list dropdown.
Mark Your Calendar

Please make note of these upcoming events.

June
21-24  Georgia MGMA, Destin, FL
        (Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort)

July
29-31  Alabama MGMA, Destin, FL
        (Sandestin Baytowne Wharf)

August
28-29  Centricity Healthcare User Group, Washington, DC
        (Renaissance Washington DC Hotel)

October
22-24  Southeast User Conference, Atlanta
        (Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands)

We are continuously adding new classes and events to our schedule. For up-to-date information and registration details, visit www.healthsystems.net/events.

NEWS & NOTES

See You in Destin!

HealthSystems will be sponsoring and exhibiting at the Georgia MGMA meeting, June 21-24 and the Alabama MGMA meeting, July 29-31, both in Destin, Florida. Please stop by and say hello!

New GE CBT Launched

GE has launched a new, modular computer-based training (CBT) initiative called Healthcare Learning System. Students learn via an online course, take a quiz online, and receive a certificate for passing. Course modules include Custom Reports, Scheduling, Statements, Chart Navigation, Clinical List Updates, EMR Desktop and more. Contact Tom Forsberg at (404) 207-1291 to find out more.

Don’t Forget Free Monthly Webinars

HealthSystems offers two free customer webinars a month, covering a wide variety of topics. One typically focuses on common support questions, and one on add-on products and services that complement Centricity. They are scheduled for 1pm on the first Tuesday and noon on the third Friday of every month. Check the HealthSystems website for times and topics. (Note that past presentations can be found on the website under the Support tab.) If you have ideas for subjects to cover in a webinar, please contact Karen Byrne at (404) 207-1295 or kbyrne@healthsystems.net.

Weighing in On Stimulus & EMR

In April, HealthSystems founder Maurice Rosenbaum organized and spoke at a Technology Association of Georgia meeting about the economic stimulus package and healthcare information technology, “Leveraging IT Investments Across the EMR.” He also presented to the Tuscaloosa MGMA on “EMR and the Future: Keys to EMR Implementation Success.” If you would like more information on these topics, please contact us — or join us at the Southeast User Conference in October, when we’ll be discussing these topics in depth. Also, if your organization is looking for a speaker on these or other topics, contact Karen Byrne at (404) 207-1295 or kbyrne@healthsystems.net.