

Munich , April 23 2009

Siemens opens Healthcare Innovation and Briefing Center in Vienna Innovative IT scenarios – the future in the health sector

Connecting together systems and players in the healthcare system is a key factor in ensuring efficient care for patients. From today onwards, Siemens IT Solutions and Services is showing examples of expedient networking and the opportunities IT solutions offer patients and players in its new Healthcare Innovation and Briefing Center (HIBC) in Vienna. All processes within the health system will be presented there in future. A series of various scenarios showcase how IT applications are used in caring for patients. The center is also a place where customers and partners can share experience and knowledge.

“Our healthcare systems are evolving. Demographic change, urbanization and increasing mobility will characterize the society of the future. As a result, the cost and efficiency of healthcare systems are being scrutinized. As one of the leading vendors of healthcare IT, Siemens boasts cutting-edge technical solutions and so meets the requirements our partners demand of efficient management systems in healthcare,” said Brigitte Ederer, Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG Austria, at the inauguration of the HIBC.

Optimized processes and efficient care for patients thanks to application networking

The new Healthcare Innovation and Briefing Center presents infrastructure solutions, as well as e-health products and applications, in various scenarios. A key aspect in this is interfacing between the IT systems so as to ensure networking of the applications and to enable integrated healthcare.

Scenario 1: Issuing and managing health cards

The Card Application Management System (CAMS) is an all-round solution for health insurance companies, allowing them to issue and administer electronic health cards and integrate them in the internet. The holder’s personal data is loaded on the e-card’s memory chip using the CAMS. The e-card is also a means of identifying the holder to doctors, as well as enabling use of applications and services such as the electronic prescription, the electronic emergency ID, applications for

ensuring the safety of medication used in therapy or the health portal. This application is also used to include biometric security features on the memory chip.

Scenario 2: Health portal

The health portal serves as a central internet-based information and communication platform that is directed towards patients as well as partners in the healthcare system, such as doctors, medical boards, insurance companies and pharmacies. Citizens can obtain information on general healthcare issues – for example, a search machine delivers a quick overview of general practitioners. Service providers can register on the portal and use it as a forum to exchange information. After authenticating themselves with their own health card at a card reader, patients can also access their medical record, details of their current medication or their medical history. They can also arrange appointments with their doctor or have referrals or prescriptions issued electronically.

Scenario 3: Doctor and patient

Patients must first present their health card at the doctor's surgery so as to enable the receptionist to check their address data, insurance details and contractual relationships. In the treatment room, the doctor is likewise given access to the healthcare management system by means of the health professional card. Administrative applications, such as checks on insurance entitlements, can be viewed in addition to the patient's medical record. Following the treatment, an electronic prescription is issued and can be called up at the pharmacy using the health card.

Scenario 4: At the pharmacy – “Medication Safety Belt”

Patients present their health card at the pharmacy so that the pharmacist can call up the stored prescriptions. All prescription or non-prescription drugs are compared and stored in a database. The required medication is checked for interactions by the “medication safety belt”. When medications are prescribed twice or would lead to unwanted interactions, the system automatically issues a warning.

Scenario 5: Service data for health insurance companies with Integrated Care Management

The IT tool Integrated Care Management prepares reports and analyses for health insurers, which can then be used as the basis for billing and contract management. The solution makes integrated healthcare arrangements more transparent with respect to treatments, services and budgets. Service providers and funding agencies can also share information and data nationwide using this platform.

Scenario 6: Networking of IT systems

Networking of all IT systems at hospitals is growing in importance, and interfaces to the wide range of IT applications are indispensable. Radiology information systems, PACS (picture archiving and communication system), electronic medical records and healthcare information and documentation systems must interact so that the data is available at the hospital centrally and so rapidly for doctors. The overall objective is to make the documents and image material accessible to general practitioners and other medical institutions, too. As part of subsequent treatment, the doctor can then call up the data and images to obtain an overview of the patient's medical history. Integration with the medication safety system is also part of this extensive networking. As a result, a doctor can check the medication is suited before prescribing it.

Future trends: Microsoft Surface technology – an interactive platform for showing the results of examinations

Irrespective of whether the doctor at the hospital requires X-ray, CT or MR images – in future, the digital results of an examination are to be projected simultaneously on the virtual user interface. The new multi-touch screen can be used by several people at the same time. As a result, doctors can process images and documents as well as storing findings and diagnoses in the hospital information system at the same time. Siemens IT Solutions and Services is currently developing various application scenarios for the healthcare sector on the basis of this system.

Press pictures are available by April 24, 2009 under:

<https://www.it-solutions.siemens.com/b2b/it/en/global/press/press-center/Pages/press-pictures.aspx>

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