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Zix Corporation Develops and Deploys Technology For Massachusetts Health Data Consortium MedsInfo-ED Project

Patient safety tool gives Massachusetts emergency departments immediate access to dispensed prescription history

DALLAS — Oct. 27, 2004 — Zix Corporation (ZixCorp®), (Nasdaq: ZIXI), a global provider of secure e-messaging, e-prescribing, and e-transaction applications and services, today announced that it has provided the technology behind the MedsInfo-ED project, a patient safety initiative of the Massachusetts Health Data Consortium's (MHDC) MA-SHARE program (Simplifying Healthcare Among Regional Entities) that offers point-of-service access to dispensed prescription history information in emergency departments.

MedsInfo-ED serves to supplement the information that patients provide to emergency department staff for improved accuracy and reduced medical errors. The Web-based application uses a secure, authenticated user sign-on portal that processes, aggregates, and formats the presentation of a patient's medication history. The dispensed prescription history data is provided by Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and MassHealth (Medicaid), as well as RxHub, Caremark, and Express Scripts for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA), Neighborhood Health Plan, Tufts Health Plan, and the Group Insurance Commission (Mass. state employees and retirees). This data is accessed from the ZixSecure Center™, a SysTrust™ certified data center, staffed 24-hours a day with operations personnel consistently monitoring the facilities, networks, systems, and applications.

"ZixCorp is performing a unique community service for our regional health information organization. When the application is fully operational, the technology will be made available to all e-prescribing vendors so that Massachusetts caregivers can maximize access to the same health plans and other sources of dispensed prescription history. ZixCorp's experience and expertise with both Internet security and e-prescribing services — and its excellent data center facilities — made it the right choice for this project," said Elliot Stone, chief executive officer for MHDC.

MHDC initiated MedsInfo-ED at the request of the Alliance for Health Care Improvement — the Medical Directors of six Massachusetts-based health plans — to address the type of errors described in a landmark study by the Institute of Medicine, "To Err is Human." According to the study, as many as 98,000 patients die each year as a result of medical errors that could have been prevented.

Three Massachusetts hospitals will initially pilot the program. Emerson Hospital went live this month,

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which will be followed by Boston Medical Center, and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. The three hospitals represent medical teaching and community-based facilities, with a combined volume of approximately 14,000 emergency patients per month. MHDC expects to have 10 hospitals participating in MedsInfo-ED by the end of 2005.

"It's exciting to participate in the MedsInfo-ED project, where we incorporated our transaction connectivity technology to bring valuable dispensed drug information directly from health plans to the emergency rooms in real-time," said Mick Kowitz, chief technology officer for ZixCorp. "Our role has been to understand the requirements, design the specs, and develop an application that is easy to use, easy to understand, and provides important patient data immediately at the point of care. Like our PocketScript® e-prescribing solution, this Web application helps save time, improves workflow, and maximizes patient safety."

The Foundation for eHealth Initiative and MHDC members, including BCBSMA, provided funding for the project. "Most important, reducing medical errors means better patient care and it may also help reduce costs. This application eliminates second-guessing and can reduce hospital stays and follow-up treatments," said Carl Ascenzo, chief information officer for BCBSMA.

About the Massachusetts Health Data Consortium
The Massachusetts Health Data Consortium was founded in 1978 by the state's major public and private healthcare organizations to serve as a neutral agency to collect, analyze, and disseminate healthcare information. In 1995, Elliot M. Stone, the Consortium's CEO, helped found the Affiliated Health Information Networks of New England project, currently consisting of the chief information officers of 37 healthcare organizations and 10 information technology companies/consultants "to improve the region's healthcare information infrastructure fostering the growth of a variety of health information networks, building on systems already in place, while encouraging collaboration and standardization among a network of networks." In 2003, the Consortium created MA-SHARE, LLC to oversee implementation of community projects for both administrative simplification and clinical data exchange. For more information, visit http://www.mahealthdata.org/ma-share/projects/medsinfo.html.

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About Zix Corporation

Zix Corporation (ZixCorp®) is a global provider of secure e-messaging, e-prescribing, and e-transaction applications and services. ZixCorp offers a range of solutions to protect organizations from viruses, spam, and electronic attack, as well as enabling secure electronic communications, such as email encryption, e-prescribing, on-line doctor visits, and electronic lab orders and results. ZixCorp helps organizations of any size to streamline operations, reduce risks, and leverage the efficiencies of e-messaging. For more information, visit www.zixcorp.com.

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