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Altron's Med-e-Mass and City of Johannesburg enrol 500 000th e-patient

Johannesburg, 30 August 2018 - Med-e-Mass, part of the Altron group of companies and a leading developer of management applications for the healthcare industry, collaborated with the City of Johannesburg to develop an electronic health platform to digitise patient records. The platform, HEALTHone Connect, which makes patient records easily accessible to healthcare workers and improves quality and continuity of care, reached a milestone of digitising 500 000 patients on 16 August 2018.

At an event held by the City of Johannesburg to celebrate the success of the project, Collin Govender, GE: Shared Services at Altron, reiterated the importance of the event and indicated that it represented what Altron was all about. "Our purpose is delivering innovation that matters, using technology to drive societal impact and enable people to do more with what they have." He went on to say that HEALTHone Connect was making a significant impact on the lives of South African patients on a daily basis. "The solution was developed originally for the private healthcare sector, but we have adapted it for the public sector. This is vitally important for the public healthcare sector as it grants them access to world-class technologies and allows for deeper redress of societal challenges."

Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor Herman Mashaba, and Member of Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Health and Social Development, Dr Mpho Phalatse, were both in attendance at the function at the Halfway House Clinic in Midrand. According to the Mayor, one of the priorities of government was to encourage innovation and efficiency through the smart city programme and that the e-health system was a radical departure from past healthcare practices.

"The e-health system has sought to do away with the paper-based method of keeping patient medical records and eliminates the duplication of information as well as the challenge of lost paper records," he said. "This enables us to maintain the integrity of the healthcare system and improve patient care."

According to Dillip Naran, GM Product Development at Med-e-Mass, the cloud-based technology solution is having a positive impact on the lives of patients. "This milestone is an important one as it shows that we can go paperless and bring efficiencies into the public healthcare arena." He went on to thank the City and the public healthcare professionals for their support during the roll-out of the solution. "We are very happy to have partnered with the City and very proud of the fact that it is benefitting the people that matter most."

HEALTHone Connect was originally launched in September 2016, providing 64 clinics in the City of Johannesburg with access to the system. Designed to conform to the National Department of Health's (NDoH) Health Normative Standards Framework (HSNF), the technology provides healthcare workers with the tools they need to improve health delivery, reduce clinic waiting times, improve patient record keeping and improve patient healthcare.

Thanks to the ubiquity and scale of the records captured, healthcare professionals can follow the health of a patient across provider, place of residence or geographical location. The system also assures complete patient confidentiality and enhances the accuracy of all critical data. As standard, the system will issue warning alerts for information being recorded and any outstanding laboratory results.

"The deployment of eHealth can be seen as a paradigm shift with the aim of providing patients with increased access and influence over their health situation by emphasising

patient authorisation, transparency and empowerment. The eHealth system will ensure secure storage of patient information, immediate transfer of patient information and better, safer, faster access to healthcare," said Dr Mpho Phalatse.

She said that physicians and nurses can now easily access the patient's diagnostic and drug information, while eliminating duplicate or unnecessary calls to laboratories or other clinics.

This system ensures that, no matter which hospital or clinic a patient attends, their healthcare professional will be able to access the patient's diagnostic and drug information, while eliminating duplicate or unnecessary calls to laboratories or other clinics.

Electronic health records help providers better manage care for patients and provide better health care by:

- Providing accurate, up-to-date, and complete information about patients at the point of care,
- Enabling quick access to patient records for more coordinated and efficient care,
- Securely sharing electronic information with patients and other clinicians,
- Helping providers more effectively diagnose patients, reduce medical errors, and provide safer care,
- Improving patient and provider interaction and communication, as well as health care convenience,
- Enabling safer, more reliable prescribing,
- Helping promote, legible, complete documentation,
- Enhancing privacy and security of patient data,
- Helping providers improve productivity and efficiency,
- Reducing costs through decreased paperwork, improved safety, reduced duplication of testing, and improved health.

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