

EO Hospital planning new data system to store patient records

East Orange General Hospital has announced a collaboration with GE Healthcare IT to incorporate the latest state-of-the-art hospital-based electronic health record, or EHR.

EHR is an effort to improve patient care and to promote efficiency and reduce cost for the hospitals under President Barack Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The recently signed agreement brings the full capability of the GE enterprise to the hospital's 211-bed facility and across its four outpatient centers.

The cutting-edge technology will meet Stage 1 of meaningful use by November to create a common electronic patient record that could be accessed when patients visit East Orange General, making the hospital one of the first in the state to implement such a program.

"Electronic medical records eliminate the need for paper charts and greatly improve the coordination of a patient's care among the various providers in the hospital who are treating the patient," said Tom Ciccarelli, chief information officer of East Orange General Hospital.

"All of their medical information is integrated into one common record, allowing physicians and nurses ready access to the most recent hospital notes, current conditions, medications and allergies, as well as laboratory, radiology and other diagnostic test results."

The use of electronic medical records also provides many benefits for patients. Having their health information easily accessible and available to all of their physicians and nurses helps with both the accuracy of diagnosis and avoids the potential duplication of costly services, such as repeated diagnostic tests.

"East Orange General Hospital has worked hard to deploy the elec-

tronic medical record," said Ciccarelli. "It is a priority here and we are in the lead with other New Jersey hospitals to incorporate this technology."

"The ideals and the change GE is working toward through its Healthymagination initiative are simply the right fit for the hospital," said Kevin Slavin, president and CEO of East Orange General. "We conducted a thorough evaluation of many of the industry's leading solutions and, in the end, GE's product, combined with the passion and partnership we saw behind it, made it the clear choice for advancing patient care."

"We are extremely excited about our new partnership with East Orange General Hospital and, in fact, we look to them as a trusted partner," said Laurent Rotival, vice president and general manager of GE Healthcare IT. "By aligning our IT solutions to their specific needs, the hospital can continue focusing on improved patient care using their new EMR tools."

East Orange General Hospital is the largest private employer in East Orange and remains the only independent, fully accredited, acute-care hospital in Essex County.

The hospital is the leader in behavioral health services and provides a comprehensive array of primary care and specialty services, including same-day surgery, physical rehabilitation services, family health, emergency medicine, outpatient hemodialysis, hyperbaric wound management, vascular and medical/surgical services.

Serving the community for more than 100 years, the hospital recently expanded its services and is adding new equipment and programs to provide the highest level of quality and compassionate patient care.

For more information on East Orange General, visit: <http://www.evh.org>.