

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robin D. Cook
602.374.4923
robin@marketingwithaflair.com

**PERSONAL HEALTH RECORDS:
A NEW, EASY AND SECURE WAY
TO MANAGE PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION**

***Medicare and Arizona Health-e Connection offer town-hall meetings on
PHRs***

Phoenix (July 17, 2009) – If you're a permanent resident of Arizona or Utah and have Original Medicare, you now have free access to a better way to manage medication and health information. A new program, Medicare PHR Choice, helps you build your own personal health record. If you choose one of the preferred PHR companies, you can authorize Medicare to send up to two years of your past claims to your personal health record to help you get started.

A personal health record, known in the healthcare industry as a PHR, can help you keep important medical information at your fingertips. You can enter medications, doctor visits, medical conditions, claim history and more, then view it whenever and wherever you have access to the Internet in language that's easy to understand. Your PHR is private. Each of the vendors in the Medicare PHR Choice program has privacy and security standards in place to help you keep your information safe. Many PHR Web sites offer additional tools such as wellness and appointment trackers and links to health education resources.

Personal health records save time for you and for your doctor. They can help you remember drug allergies and keep track of past treatments and tests. Should you need immediate care, your PHR can provide emergency personnel with critical information from your medical history. Medicare and Arizona Health-e Connection, a non-profit organization specializing in healthcare information, are co-sponsoring a series of town-hall-style meetings to raise awareness of the benefits of Personal Health Records. Dr. Holly Miller, a national expert on personal health records, will keynote the series. To learn more about Medicare PHR Choice, you may attend one of these free information sessions for Original Medicare beneficiaries and their families:

Monday, July 27 –

7:30am, or 7:30pm – Joyner-Green Valley Branch Library
601 North La Canada Drive, Green Valley

Tuesday, July 28 –

7:30am – Mountain View Country Club
SaddleBrooke Two Resort Community, 38759 S. Mountain View Boulevard, Tucson

Wednesday, July 29 –

7:30am or 7:00pm – Surprise City Hall Council Chambers
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza, Surprise

Thursday, July 30 –

8:00am – Scottsdale Civic Center Library
3839 N. Drinkwater Boulevard, Scottsdale

Friday, July 31 –

7:30am – Flagstaff City Hall Council Chambers
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff

About Arizona Health-e Connection

Established in January 2007, Arizona Health-e Connection is a not-for-profit organization created to lead Arizona's establishment of health information exchange (HIE), and adoption of health information technology (HIT). “Communicate, Collaborate, Coordinate” is the three-word mission that best describes this private-public partnership’s charter to help Arizona consumers, insurers and providers benefit from the power of information technology. For more information, call (602) 288-5130 or visit Arizona Health-e Connection online at www.azhec.org. For more on personal health records and how they can help you, visit www.medicare.gov/phr.

About Dr. Holly Miller

Holly Miller, M.D., MBA, FHIMSS is the Chief Medical Officer of MedAllies, a company that improves physician practice efficiencies through Electronic Health Record technology. Dr. Miller has been instrumental in the creation and advancement of major eHealth initiatives. She was formerly Vice President and Chief Medical Information Officer of University Hospitals & Health Systems and served as health information technology Managing Director for the Cleveland Clinic. With more than 10 years of healthcare IT (HIT) experience, Dr. Miller is a frequent presenter at national meetings on HIT and PHRs and has been active in healthcare informatics research. In 2007 she was named one of the 50 Most Powerful Physician Executives by *Modern Physician Magazine*. She is the lead author of a 2009 book on PHRs, titled *Personal Health Records, the Essential Missing Element in 21st Century Healthcare*.

Editor’s Note:

Content experts are available for interviews and computer demonstrations.

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