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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PACeHR SELECTS TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS TO ACCELERATE ARIZONA'S
PHYSICIAN EHR ADOPTION AND MAXIMIZE ARRA STIMULUS FUNDS**

Alliance with e-MDs and Noteworthy Medical Systems is key to realizing statewide health information exchange (HIE)

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Sept. 30, 2009 – The [Purchasing & Assistance Collaborative for Electronic Health Records](#) (PACeHR) today announced the selection of [e-MDs](#) and [Noteworthy Medical Systems, Inc.](#) as technology partners to provide accessible and affordable electronic health records (EHR) to small and medium-sized physician group practices in Arizona. The partner agreement will help drive EHR adoption and, thereby, assist physician practices in qualifying for American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) stimulus funds, as well as strengthen the foundation for statewide health information exchange (HIE).

"The PACeHR program to stimulate physician EMR adoption is an important investment in improving healthcare quality and containing costs," said Wes Rishel, Gartner healthcare analyst. "You can't manage what you can't measure, and it is impractical to measure data that is locked up in paper charts."

Nearly 95 percent of primary care is delivered in practices with less than five physicians and virtually 100 percent in groups of 10 or fewer physicians, according to Health Services Advisory Group Inc. (HSAG), a quality improvement organization based in Phoenix. HSAG estimates that only 4 percent to 9 percent of the state's nearly 7,000 primary care physicians are automated. To address this gap, PACeHR, a Phoenix-based non-profit organization comprised of medical practices and other stakeholders, was established to advance EHR adoption using web-based technologies, economies of scale and strategic partnering.

According to Anita Murcko, M. D., PACeHR project director, the technology partners e-MDs and Noteworthy were selected by a panel consisting of 16 clinicians, in addition to Gartner analysts and legal and business experts, who evaluated 14 vendors during a six month evaluation process.

"Physicians will be much more confident in their EHR purchases knowing that the PACeHR selection panel included clinicians who evaluated the EHR solutions based on a host of criteria including scalability, interoperability and long-term use," said panel member Anil Goud, M.D., an internist and hospitalist at a 14-doctor internal medicine group in Phoenix. "Many smaller practices have not yet digitized because of cost, fear of buying the wrong system, and concern that vendors will ignore their needs once the contract is signed."

Under the partner agreement, all licensed healthcare providers are eligible to subscribe to web-based EHRs and practice management solutions from e-MDs or Noteworthy. Early adopters that subscribe prior to July 1, 2010 will benefit from expanded assistance from PACeHR to meet and apply for ARRA stimulus funds.

Added Goud, "When you are a small practice, you are at the mercy of the vendor as to the timing of implementation, upgrades, support and their willingness to listen to technology enhancement requests. As a large purchasing group, PACeHR ensures that small and medium-sized physician practices will have equal access to vendors and receive excellent service. Additionally, the collaborative organization provides the opportunity for groups using the same technology to share and promote best practices to improve quality of care, patient safety and administrative efficiencies."

"e-MDs' and Noteworthy's web products met our core functional requirements and demonstrated rapid deployability, affordability and overall ease of use," said Murcko, who is also medical director for informatics at the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, the state's Medicaid agency. "Coupled with their commitment to collaboration and development, e-MDs' and Noteworthy's CCHIT Certified[®] solutions offer practices the modularity, flexibility and scalability needed to meet the distinct needs of each practice for today and tomorrow."

"In addition to targeting primary care practices, we are also reaching out to community clinics and long-term care, behavioral health and correctional facilities serving the uninsured and other special populations," said Roger A. Hughes, PACeHR's board president and executive director of St. Luke's Health Initiatives, a public foundation in Phoenix. "Every physician practice and care provider organization is unique and PACeHR is committed to offering participants the technology options that best suit their needs."

"The selection panel has conducted a very stringent, thorough and multi-dimensional assessment of all vendors and we are pleased and honored to be chosen by PACeHR," said Mark Conner, Noteworthy's vice president of channel sales. "We were very impressed with the dedication the PACeHR selection committee demonstrated in examining both the products and companies. It was clear that every step in the process was intended to ensure that Arizona physicians have EHR software that not only fits their diverse practice needs and style, but also positions them to successfully improve care delivery, patient safety and efficiencies."

"e-MDs is honored to be chosen as one of two finalists after an extremely rigorous vetting process involving a large number of top tier vendors. The program is well positioned to help Arizona practices benefit from the significant incentives available in ARRA," said Dr. Michael Stearns, president and CEO of e-MDs. "We share PACeHR's commitment to applying lessons learned in a way that will have the greatest impact on patient care and physician acceptance of health information technology."

To date, 10 Arizona practices representing 30 clinicians have signed letters of intent to purchase EHRs through the PACeHR program. Two physician practices will go live by the end of the year and the remainder will complete EHR deployment during the first half of 2010.

About e-MDs

e-MDs is a leading developer of healthcare software solutions and is headquartered in Austin, Texas. The company, founded in 1996 by a primary care physician, remains physician-managed and actively participates in national health information technology and interoperability efforts. e-MDs Solution Series™, with more than 23,000 users nationwide, is the standard for affordable and integrated EHR and Practice Management software solutions including clinical, financial and document management modules designed to automate medical practice processes and chart management. The product is 2008 CCHIT Certified and designed by physicians aiming to improve care, reduce errors and simplify business so that time spent with patients is time billed and coded properly. For more information, call 888.344.9836 or visit <http://www.e-mds.com>.

About Noteworthy Medical Systems, Inc.

Noteworthy Medical Systems, Inc. is a privately held company founded in 1996 that provides a comprehensive set of tools to effectively manage and facilitate care in the ambulatory setting. Noteworthy's focus is to provide sophisticated applications for doctors' offices as well as the technology to connect physicians, hospitals and healthcare communities for improved care and communication. For more information, call 877.891.8777 or visit <http://www.noteworthymedical.com>.

About PACeHR

The Purchasing & Assistance Collaborative for Electronic Health Records (PACeHR) is a non-profit organization incorporated to accelerate EHR adoption by small and medium-sized physician group practices in Arizona. Acting on behalf of participating medical practices and other stakeholders, PACeHR leverages web-based technologies, economies of scale and strategic partnering to foster effective implementation and use of affordable, interoperable EHR systems to improve quality, safety and efficiency, and promote a community of information sharing. For more information, visit <http://www.azhealthrecord.gov/PACeHR/Default.aspx>.

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