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Contact: Alexis S. Kim
Marketing & Communications Manager
Telephone: (714) 436-4709

Contact: Richele Craveiro-Steele
Telephone: (562) 933-2807

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Care Everywhere Worldwide Debut Links
Physician and Hospital Medical Records

(Long Beach, Calif. – August 27, 2008) When Francine Fox, 76, went to the emergency department at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center with a breathing problem, she didn't know how long it would take the hospital to obtain her medical records from her regular physician at Talbert Medical Group. She also didn't know that she would be making history, as the first patient in the world to have her clinic and hospital medical records linked between separate organizations through a system called *Care Everywhere,*.

Care Everywhere, created by Epic Systems Corporation of Verona, WI, enables independent entities such as private practice medical groups and hospitals that use Epic Electronic Medical Records (EMR) systems to instantly share confidential medical records over the Internet, via encrypted connections. Epic includes strong security features that ensure patient information is secure and private at all times. *Care Everywhere,* allows a treating physician real-time access to his or her patient's medical history, family medical history, previous diagnoses, lab tests, medications, allergies, physician's notes and other crucial information— without having to wait for medical records to be transferred from one facility to another. Since Francine is a patient at Talbert Medical Group and she was admitted to Long Beach Memorial, her physician at the hospital was able to review her complete medical records without having to call Talbert Medical Group. Both organizations collaborated with Epic to become the first members of the *Care Everywhere,* network, a nationwide, peer-to-peer information exchange among separate Epic EMR systems.

"Not only does this mean a physician at Long Beach Memorial can immediately begin treatment, it means that many tests and screenings that a patient has already received will not have to be duplicated at the hospital," said Francine's physician, Steven B. Leven, M.D., F.C.C.P., ICU Director at Long Beach Memorial and Chairman of Pulmonary Medicine at Talbert Medical Group. "This saves the patient from enduring multiple tests as well as the additional costs that could be associated with those tests."

"*Care Everywhere* enables me to provide timely, appropriate care through better knowledge of the patient's medical history and overall condition," said Leven. "In this instance, I felt more comfortable and confident in taking care of my patient, knowing that I was able to see both her physician office visit and hospital records at the same time."

The ability to immediately access a patient's medical history and records is particularly valuable in emergency situations, where patients may not be able to speak for themselves and every minute counts. "We have implemented Epic to ensure the medical treatment we provide our community is immediate and safer," said Terry Belmont, CEO Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. "It's great to see how our work to implement Epic immediately benefited our patients and strengthened our partnership with our physicians." Added Barry Arbuckle, PhD, President and CEO MemorialCare Medical Centers, "*Care Everywhere* is a major advance in putting a more complete patient record in the hands of our physicians, when needed, at the point of care. We're excited about its positive impact on patient service, quality, and overall outcomes."

Care Everywhere is an equally valuable tool for making treatment decisions in physician's offices. Keith Wilson, M.D., President and CEO, Talbert Medical Group, explained that Talbert is using advanced technology to enhance patient care, as well as to improve patient access to the health care system. "We're dedicated to providing our patients with the best possible health care," he said, "and *Care Everywhere* represents the next step forward in completing the circle of care. Now our physicians have the information they need to treat patients at their fingertips and patients have the comfort of knowing that accurate medical records are used to make treatment decisions, whether they are at a hospital or in their physician's office."

Francine Fox agrees. Now recovering back at home, Francine said that being the first patient to benefit from *Care Everywhere* was an exciting experience. "The doctors could see everything about my medical history and it helped them to know what to do right away," she said. A Talbert patient since 2003, Francine likes the way new technology keeps her connected to her own health care. "I use TMG4ME to make appointments and look at my medical records," she explained. "It's a great thing! TMG4ME, an online service for patients—introduced by Talbert in May of 2006 and powered by Epic MyChart software—lets patients securely view medical records, request prescription refills, make appointments and check referrals. "I'm glad the hospital and my doctor are working together to help me," Francine said, "and I'm happy that I was the first *Care Everywhere* patient. I hope many more people will be helped through *Care Everywhere*."

"*Care Everywhere* was created to save lives in the Emergency Department when the patient has shown up from a different organization. It was written because of a child who died years ago because she went to an unfamiliar Emergency Department—they didn't have her records and didn't know she required special care," said Judy Faulkner, Epic's CEO. "It also helps patients who move, patients who have regular care at multiple organizations, snowbirds and everyday referrals."

About Talbert Medical Group

Talbert Medical Group is an independent, physician-owned primary care and multi-specialty medical group serving Southern California for 40 years. Talbert is dedicated to providing compassionate health care and outstanding service to patients through its network of more than 130 practitioners, primary care providers and specialists at 10 full service health care facilities. For more information about Talbert Medical Group and the innovations it is bringing to health care, log onto **www.talbertmedical.com**.

About Long Beach Memorial Medical Center

Long Beach Memorial Medical Center is part of MemorialCare—a health system of not-for-profit, community-based hospitals throughout Southern California. Their mission is to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families and our communities through innovation and the pursuit of excellence. Long Beach Memorial is the region's first choice for comprehensive care in virtually every medical and surgical specialty and has been recognized as one of the nation's premiere medical centers. Centers of excellence include the Memorial Heart and Vascular Institute, The Todd Cancer Institute and Memorial Rehabilitation.

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