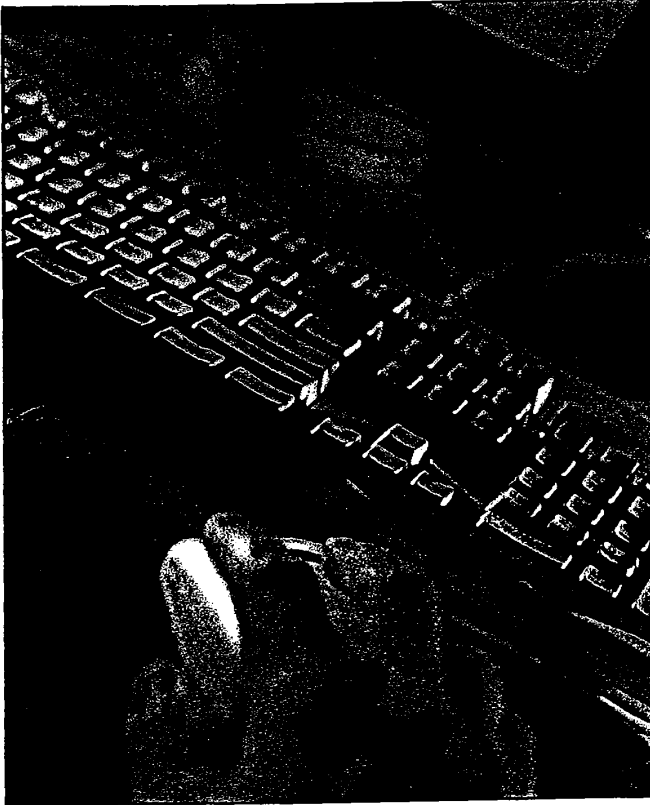


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EDS and Health Hero Network Offer Internet Approach to Supporting Patients at Home

Healthcare professionals will use the HHN Online Service to create and assign customized patient programs and access up-to-date patient data via a standard Web browser.

EDS and Health Hero Network, Inc. (HHN), a healthcare information services company, announced that they are working together to provide an online service that enables patients at home and their care providers to proactively manage chronic illnesses. The service will enable medical professionals to effectively track and support patients, while helping these patients better manage their conditions at home. This collaboration will create a frequent 2-way communication link between healthcare providers and their patients.

Care providers using the HHN Online

Service can track the health status of patients with diseases such as diabetes, asthma, congestive heart failure, and renal disease. The service will give providers the frequent communication and baseline data that yield more opportunities to identify potentially serious situations sooner, help caregivers focus their care on those who need it most, and enable them to educate and motivate patients.

Healthcare professionals will use the HHN Online Service to create and assign customized patient programs and access up-to-date patient data via a standard Web browser. Healthcare organizations can create custom HHN protocols — collections of predetermined, disease-specific dialogues between a patient and healthcare provider, intended to help assess, modify, and monitor pivotal aspects of patient behavior, knowledge, and patient-observed symptoms. Care providers can customize the protocols for individual patients or groups of patients.

Patients use the Health Buddy appliance, a simple, cost-effective, easy-to-use messaging device to receive messages from and send information to healthcare professionals. The appliance features a brightly lit, high-contrast display screen with 4 large response buttons for answering questions. The Health Buddy appliance will also be able to transmit data from blood glucose meters and other home medical devices that export data, subject to FDA clearance. Patient responses and data from medical devices will be automatically downloaded each night via the EDS infrastructure and can be viewed by Health Hero Network clients.

EDS integrates telecommunications, decision support services, Internet capabilities, and its Electronic Commerce Management System (ECMS) to form the core HHN Online Service infrastructure. Information from patients travels via the ECMS to a central repository where it can be viewed from multiple geographical locations by care providers and case managers using a secure Internet connection.

"EDS has a vision of using technology to improve the lives of individuals. This relationship with HHN repre-

sents a significant step forward toward reaching that goal," says EDS medical director, Robert Beardall, MD, MPH. "The current acute care focus of our health-care system tends to address the needs of the chronically ill after they become unstable. Combining the core competencies of Health Hero Network and EDS creates a solution that shifts this model to one of proactive intervention prior to the occurrence of a crisis."

"Oftentimes, the only interaction between patients with chronic illnesses and their healthcare providers is during infrequently scheduled appointments or when there is a health crisis," explains Steve Brown, Health Hero Network's founder and chief executive officer. "The information obtained through the Health Hero Network Online Service can provide caregivers with more opportunities to identify potentially serious conditions sooner and modify the patient's treatment earlier to alleviate future health complications. Enabling organizations to provide proactive care before the onset of major problems, rather than reacting to crises after they occur, is the future of healthcare."

Health Hero Network, Inc., a privately held healthcare information services company based in Mountain View, Calif., is a leader in leveraging communication technology to revolutionize the delivery of healthcare. HHN will provide a unique interactive communication link between healthcare providers and chronically ill patients at home. The company's service will enable managed care organizations to meet their greatest challenge: proactively and cost-effectively managing chronic disease.

EDS has been a leader in the global information services industry for more than 35 years. The company delivers systems and technology expertise, management consulting, business process management, and electronic business leadership. EDS, with \$16.9 billion in revenues in 1998, offers solutions to improve the performance of more than 9,000 business and government clients in nearly 50 countries. The company's stock is traded on the New York Stock exchange and the London Stock exchange. Visit EDS via the Internet at www.eds.com.

— Source: Health Hero Network, Inc.