MEDcommons

Patient Controlled Medical Records and eReferrals for Everyone

MedCommons is universally accessible to clinicians, patients and enterprises wherever they may be. New standards and open source software technology combine to facilitate referrals today even as they demonstrate a solid foundation for the National Health Information Network of tomorrow.

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 (Dr. Gropper's Blog)

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IHE Integration Profile

Local Gateway Log On

Secure Log On

MedCommons Tracking Number

[   ]

New Users: The MedCommons Tracking Number is provided as a service by a participating physician to facilitate referrals. You must Register with MedCommons prior to accessing any private health information.

MedCommons ID

[   ]

Password

[   ]

Password or other Help?   LOG ON >

Interoperability Showcases at HIMSS 2005
Delivering Interoperability in the Real World

See us in action in the Cross-Enterprise Showcase at HIMSS Booth 6723 and MedCommons Booth 7370

The First Page is Always the Hardest

This is a first attempt at a home page for demo, web site and random MedCommons Gateways. Please ignore the graphic design as it will be redone by Ted, or the content as it will be redone by Dan, or the fact that this is a Word document as it will be managed by Keith, or the lack of functionality. A boy can dream. The Notes below are my attempt to organize the process.

Notes:

1. This is the proposed MedCommons home page on the Web for both .net and .org. How soon can we actually put this up? What will be the process for managing content for testing and approval?

2. This page can be the home page for our Enterprise Gateways starting with mcpurple06. *Local Gateway Log On* is dimmed above because it would actually be completely absent on the WAN. A LAN user that clicks this link would go to a gateway's Selection Screen and see a bunch of DICOM studies. The Enterprise Gateway may require a local or domain login to get to this screen – MedCommons registration or connectivity is not required..

3. Registration for a MedCommons ID will require a Credit Card and a working Phone Number along with the usual address and stuff. Users will be issued a 16-digit MedCommons ID (designed to look like a debit card number) on the spot. Their Password, but not their ID, will be communicated by telephone. (Eventually, we will offer to send their password by registered mail to get the Postal Service in the loop of identifying users.).

4. People can change their Password and MedCommons ID. Changing the Password is free. Changing the ID may cost money.

5. Users can check the Licensed Provider Box during Registration and provide a state and license number.

6. A successful login that resolves to a single patient can result from entering a Tracking Number, a MedCommons ID, a HIMSS ID, and a Password. If the ID is a HIMSS ID no password is required. Otherwise, if the password fails, the User can continue in demo mode with demo data or return to enter the correct password. In all cases where a login resolves to a single patient, the CCR Folder Stack is displayed. This page replaces the current My Account page.

7. Selecting a particular CCR Folder displays the WADO Viewer.

8. A successful login for a provider that does not resolve to a particular patient shows the current My Account Page.

9. A new field will be added to the top of the provider's My Account Page:

   Patient Credit Card Number

   [   ] **Print a Patient HIPAA Form >**

10. If the Credit Card number matches the one used by the patient in Registration, the Patient HIPAA Form includes the patient's MedCommons ID and Name – ready to sign – and requests the provider to use the ID in all XDS submissions.

Pages with Dynamic Content

CCR Folder Stack

Notes:

1. This is currently being worked on by Ted and Simon.

2. A recent HIPAA Log section will be added to this screen since patients do not typically see the Selection Screen.

3. At HIMSS the CCR Folder Stack is the result of the XDS Query. Replies that do not include a CCR will begin with PDF or CDA as appropriate.

4. On the Web demo, the CCR Folder Stack will always return one dummy test folder.

Selection Screen

1. This is currently called the My Account page. It is the default display for users who have checked off the Provider box.

2. A link to the Gateway Download will be added. This does not have to be live for HIMSS or even in the weeks that follow.

3. A block for entering the Patient's credit card number will be added linking to the Patient HIPAA Form.

Patient HIPAA Form

1. Most of the content of this form is supplied by the provider and branded by the provider. There is no official form that I'm aware of. School release forms are [one page long]. Doctor release forms can be [7 pages long]. Most are somewhere in between. A more useful approach might be to assume that a practice has a [written policy] and a separate one page patient [restrictions form]. MedCommons would modify and print the restrictions form.

2. A MedCommons section at the bottom includes the MedCommons Logo, Patient's Name and MedCommons ID along with a directive requesting the inclusion of the MedCommons ID in all XDS filings.

3. A Print button can be used by the provider to print the form for the patient to sign.

4. A Sign and Connect to MedCommons button allows the patient to sign by entering their Password and sends the form to MedCommons as a CCR. A tracking Number is automatically generated for this transaction.

5. As part of the Sign and Connect to MedCommons dialog above, the patient has the option of supplying the provider a previously generated CCR to save time and reduce the risk of introducing errors. This step would be unnecessary if the patient visit was preceded by am eReferral email invitation.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is MedCommons?

   MedCommons is a patient-controlled medical data bank. Like any bank, MedCommons depends on the trust of its customers to stay in business.

2. Why call a bank MedCommons?

   MedCommons reminds us all that there are many valuable uses for private medical data. This data belongs to the patient and only to the patient. It is the patient's choice if and when arid how to share this data with physicians, insurance companies and various companies.

   A commons is a resource managed in the common interest. Private medical data, properly managed can help to improve health care for all by facilitating scientific research, objectively demonstrating quality and by promoting public health arid safety.

   In the movie "It's a wonderful Life", Jimmy Stewart teaches us about the value of banks to the community and the importance of voluntary participation in the bank as foundation for trust.

3. Will my physicians accept and use MedCommons?

   MedCommons is based on the physician's own Continuity of Care Record standard. In the words of the ASTM standards organization:

   > *The CCR, or Continuity of Care Record, is a standard specification that has been developed over the past two years jointly by ASTM International, the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS), the Health Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association (AMA), the Patient Safety Institute, the American Health Care Association, the National Association for the Support of Long Term Care, and the Mobile Healthcare Alliance. The remarkable success in achieving widespread consensus and early sponsorship of the professional societies and organizations listed above (others are pending) is a testimony to the power and the timing of the concepts and the methodology supporting the CCR. This new specification is intended to foster and improve continuity of patient care, to reduce medical errors, and to assure at least a minimum standard of health information transportability when a patient is referred or transferred to, or is otherwise seen by, another provider.*

4. Will enterprises accept and use MedCommons?

   MedCommons is a strong supporter of Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise Standards and a Participant in this year's IHE Cross-Enterprise Showcase. The IHE process, manages a series of Profiles representing "best practices" for integration within enterprises and, with the recent Cross-Enterprise Data Sharing (XDS) Profiles, across enterprises.

   MedCommons is certified by IHE as meeting the relevant IHE ITI –XDS Profiles.

   Furthermore, MedCommons will release any of its software hosted by the enterprise under an OSI-certified Open Source license that enables everyone including providers and vendors to review, use, modify and embed the key components of IHE-XDS for free.

Relevant components of the MedCommons Gateway to the enterprise have already received clearance by the FDA.

5. How will MedCommons make money?

MedCommons will provide eReferral transfer services and private medical data banking services to patients and their physicians.

MedCommons is free during the initial testing period. Even so, patient privacy and security is being maintained as mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-191 ("HIPAA").

6. Referrals usually take days and cost plenty as I chase around town looking for films. Will MedCommons handle medical images such as CT and MR scans?

Yes. Please register and check out the demo.

MedCommons uses the CCR to organize referrals and links diagnostic-quality radiology images to the appropriate components of the CCR.

7. CCRs and diagnostic radiology images sound like complicated and expensive technology. What will patients and physicians need to install on their computers?

Usually nothing. MedCommons is securely accessible to physicians and patients alike via modern Web browsers and email. This includes the ability to create and modify CCRs, scanned documents in PDF format and other formats required by XDS profiles.

Medical imaging facilities, hospitals and radiology practices that generate or process diagnostic medical images will be required to install the MedCommons Gateway or upgrade their systems to support IHE-XDS profiles required for patient control and cross-enterprise data sharing. The MedCommons Gateway is FDA-registered Free/ Open Source Software and will be available for free download once our pilot testing is complete.

8. What is the relationship between MedCommons and the proposed National Health Information Network?

MedCommons is being offered as an open and standards-based solution to the patient-control component of the NHIN. We intend to work with Regional Health Information Organizations and other pilot programs as the NHIN takes shape.

9. What is the relationship between MedCommons and proposed HSA (Heath Savings Accounts) and other consumer-directed care insurance programs?

MedCommons is independent of both health care and insurance providers. By providing true portability and world-wide access to health resources, MedCommons is well suited to consumer-directed insurance plans and may be offered as a convenient link to consumer-controlled health savings account payment cards.

10. Will physicians have access to private data in my MedCommons account in case of emergency?

Only if you choose to allow it and to the extent required by law. MedCommons will make it easy to make copies of your private data and grant and revoke access privileges to those copies to physicians, family members and other people as you see fit.

User Registration Page

MedCommons ID Card

Name:	Adrian Gropper
Job Title:	Chief Science Officer
Company:	MedCommons Inc.
Work Address:	52 Marshall St. Watertown, MA 02472
E-mail 1:	agropper@medcommons.org
E-mail 2:	
E-mail 3:	
Web Page:	

☐ I am a licensed professional in MA ▾
License Number and Authority   *what's this?*

Photo:
maximum file
size: 500K

[Clear]

[   ] [Browse...]

Work Phone:	617 395 6744
Work Phone 2:	
Work Fax:	617 924 5329
Mobile:	617 571 3857
Pager:	
Work IM:	
Birthday:	Jun ▾ 15 ▾ 1952 ▾

[Save] [Cancel]

A valid credit card is required to complete your registration. A $5 fee will be collected to defer costs of issuing your secure MedCommons ID with telephone or US Postal service password delivery. If you cannot afford the registration charge or do not wish to provide MedCommons with credit card information, please send email to join@medcommons.org describing your circumstances and we will suggest alternative means of obtaining a MedCommons ID. Each family member requires their own MedCommons ID.

Although subsequent Password changes are free on line, requests for new MedCommons ID or changes to your credit card on file are subject to verification and will be charged $5 each time.

Proceed to Credit Card Payment ⇨

To save time filling forms, you can create MedCommons ID Cards for your current health care providers at no charge.

Create MedCommons ID Cards for your referral contacts ⇨

User Registration Forms

1. This page should display the information being edited as a business card at the top. This card will be displayed on the CCR Folder Stack screen and used in the header of CCRs.

2. A webcam will allow the patient's photograph to be added to their card.

3. Password changes are allowed but only after the initial (telephone or US Mail) communication.

4. Linkage to Verisign or other strong and potentially biometric IDs will be allowed.

5. A link on this page will allow patients to enter insurance, family support and physician information that can then be placed into their CCRs. MedCommons will check all incoming CCRs and alert the patient (email, telephone, at login) when CCR information (presumably from a provider) does not match any of the items they track in this section. The storage format of this patient controlled section is, of course, a CCR.

Credit Card Authorization

1. Successful credit card authorization results in the user being issued a printable MedCommons ID that looks like a cross between a bank card and an insurance card. On the front, there is a 16-digit MedCommons ID Number, an expiration date 2 years in the future, and the person's Name all in Caps to avoid confusion.

2. The credit card authorization page also includes a field for entering a contact phone number (transfer the number from the ID card phone number) and an address for USPS mail also transferred from the ID card.

3. If the patient has given us a valid email in their ID, they get an email with this information as well and instructions reminding them of how the initial password will be communicated.

4. Messed up password authorizations will need to be handled by our 800-number which we will need to supply somewhere from the home page as well as here and on the ID card itself.

5. The Credit Card number will be kept on file by MedCommons and used to pay for eReferral transfers and storage of large documents. Credit card charges will be indicated as a new column added to the user's HIPAA log.

By way of documentation, this page at Digital River describes many of the features we need in our credit card processing beginning with low start-up costs. Our requirement for persistent credit card storage like Amazon One-Click or Expedia enter the last 4-digits may preclude us from using the DigiBuy service out of the box.

Telephone delivery of passwords is under investigation. Until it is available and integrated with our registration process a MedCommons Lifeline Demo / Support Link Person can call the user and deliver the password in a very robotic voice.

Live Demos and Lifeline Link Support will require administrator screens that can securely display Registration and other User sessions in progress. A secure administrator page will be located here.

Privacy

This is as close to a perfect privacy policy page as I've ever seen. Somebody who writes English better than I – or is it me - needs to edit this content by substituting MedCommons for Plaxo and little else. I also suggest we use our own signatures.

We need to license the use of Truste and Verisign logos.

In The News

For Release: February 14, 2005

World's First Independent Patient-Centric Medical Data Bank Unveiled

Revolutionary New Service Centralizes Personal Medical Information and Gives Control of Access to Patients

(February 14, 2005 Dallas, TX) At the Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Annual Meeting in Dallas, MedCommons Inc. launched a new product today that will forever change for better the way patients take responsibility for their own medical care. MedCommons Patient Data Bank, a new national patient-centric PHI storage and retrieval system marks a bold step in the evolution of healthcare. MedCommons isolates and controls the patient's private health information as they make choices in hospitals and insurance plans in the same way that a bank account keeps private assets safe and secure. The MedCommons ensemble of technologies for independent and vendor-neutral patient information management introduces the industry's first document gateway and diagnostic image viewer software to receive FDA clearance as Open Source Software.

Until now, proprietary medical records were inaccessible to the patient and an unreimbursed expense to the provider.   Adrian Gropper MD, Chief Science Officer for the MedCommons Patient Data Bank, said, "The launch today of our national online service solves several age-old problems. First, it embraces portability.   A patient's complete medical history will now be easily accessible at the click of a mouse from our secure website (www.medcommons.net). Second, it is cost-effective. The patient pays only for banking their private information, while the provider enterprises purchase information technology as they would other infrastructure. Third, and most importantly, it separates the patient's interest from the provider's and puts the sum total of a person's medical history and data in control of the patient, not managed health care."

Technological advances in diagnostics, pharmaceuticals and minimally invasive techniques are stressing the ability of regulators and patients alike to cope with a flood of information and a growing range of choices. Comparing alternatives and getting the best advice requires that all of the relevant information be painlessly available to all of the physicians and caregivers that the patient might choose. Building on Integrating the Health Care Enterprise (IHE) best practices,

MedCommons technology synchronizes standard PHI documents (DICOM, CCR, PDF) between providers and the PHI bank daily or on demand. Referrals and second opinions are as simple as paying a bill.

Bill Donner, CEO of MedCommons said, "In a dynamic and increasingly complex health care environment, MedCommons is uniquely independent. Think of the MedCommons Patient Data Bank as you would an online brokerage account. Very sensitive and private information is held securely by your broker, and similarly, by MedCommons. Only with your permission, can data be added or viewed." Donner added, "Our business will succeed only if it keeps the trust of patients and physicians. Since we are neither a provider nor a payor, our success rests solely in our ability to protect the consumer's privacy and self-interest."

Curtis Cole MD, Director of Information Services Weill Medical College of Cornell University added "Doctors today understand the reasons to automate but rates of EMR adoption remain low. By separating the data from the application, MedCommons lets doctors control their practice and their practice technology - not the other way around. With MedCommons, referrals can be based on medical judgment with digital technology actually facilitating communication rather than adding another barrier."

About MedCommons
MedCommons is a new company founded by experts in Internet-scale medical and financial software systems. Based in Watertown, MA, MedCommons offers the first nationally scalable standards-based network service that enables cross-enterprise and cross-system document sharing for both image and non-image based patient information. MedCommons has built an independent HIPAA compliant network supporting secure transfer and viewing of private information over the Internet. The service combines native Continuity of Care Record (CCR-standard) support with an FDA-cleared thin-client implementation of Web DICOM for universal access to diagnostic imaging.

For more information, contact: Judy Fallows, 617-395-6744 (jfallows@medcommons.org) and visit www.medcommons.net

White Papers

IHE Integration Profile

I believe we're eligible to post the IHE logo and post this certificate as a consequence of passing the Connectathon. Sean will tell us what goes in here in his spare time.

This page provides [a poor description](#) for the curious.