



Shands HealthCare Selects Micromedex CareNotes System from Thomson Reuters to Improve Patient Education

March 17, 2009 at 4:41 PM EDT

ANN ARBOR, Mich., March 17, 2009 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- Shands HealthCare has selected the Micromedex(R) CareNotes(R) System from Thomson Reuters as a key component of its ongoing effort to improve patient education.

Shands HealthCare is a private, not-for-profit healthcare system affiliated with the University of Florida and its Health Science Center campuses in Gainesville and Jacksonville. It includes eight Shands hospitals and two home health agencies.

Shands will use CareNotes to provide patients with easy-to-understand information about all aspects of their care and health - and to meet patient education guidelines of the Joint Commission and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.

"After a comprehensive review of the available options in the market, we determined that CareNotes provided the most comprehensive solution - in terms of features, functionality and support - to meet our strict criteria as well as those required by the Joint Commission," said Mary Coons, RN, MSN, Shands at University of Florida nurse specialist. "CareNotes is the tool our clinicians need to ensure that patients understand their conditions, treatment, medication, and follow-up care."

CareNotes provides more than 6,000 customizable documents covering general care, pre- and after- care, inpatient care, drug notes, and hospital discharge instructions. The documents are available in English and Spanish and are written for a sixth- to eighth-grade reading level.

Irene Alexaitis, Shands at University of Florida vice president and chief nursing officer, said: "We chose CareNotes over other vendors because of the breadth of content and the specialty topics that were included, such as transplants. Having a consistent system to provide education to our patients across the continuum of care is a tremendous resource for our staff."

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About Shands HealthCare

Shands HealthCare is a private, not-for-profit healthcare system affiliated with the University of Florida and its Health Science Center campuses in Gainesville and Jacksonville. The system includes eight Shands hospitals and two home-health agencies. Shands is affiliated with more than 80 UF outpatient practices located throughout North Central and Northeast Florida.

Shands is a leader for healthcare referrals in the state of Florida and the healthcare system is among the most respected in the Southeast. UF and community physicians provide care in more than 100 specialty and sub-specialty medical areas, from primary care to highly complex care including cancer, cardiovascular, neurosurgery and transplantation services. Patients come to Shands HealthCare from every county in the state, throughout the nation and more than a dozen countries. To learn more, visit www.shands.org.

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