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News Release

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For Immediate Release

PENNOCK HOSPITAL, ONE OF THE FIRST HOSPITALS IN MICHIGAN TO IMPLEMENT A TWO-WAY ELECTRONIC INFORMATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN A PHYSICIAN OFFICE AND THE HOSPITAL WITH LAB ORDERS

Hastings, MI - In the fall of 2007, Pennock Hospital and Family Tree Physicians took a step toward exchanging patient information electronically by having Pennock Hospital send Lab results directly to Family Tree's electronic health system. Since that time, five other practices have been added to that list, with more looking into the process.

As of August 18th of this year, Family Tree and Pennock took this one step further to eliminate paper. Family Tree Physicians are now sending Lab orders electronically to Pennock directly from their electronic health system, or commonly called Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE). This allows the practitioner, as a patient is in an exam room, to compile a list of lab tests to be ordered during the exam. Once the exam is completed, the practitioner sends the orders to Pennock electronically. The orders are received at Pennock before the patient leaves the exam room.

Advantages of this process:

- Patients no longer need to remember to bring in paper orders.
- Lab orders in Meditech are exactly what the office ordered.
- Cut down on the amount of paper orders Patient Registration keeps on file.
- Eliminate interpretation hand written orders.
- Lab results sent from Pennock matches up with the electronic order in the office automatically.

Director of Information Technology, Tom Herbstreith noted, "This joint endeavor could not have been accomplished without Tony Frith, Pennock Information Technology Interface Specialist and project coordinator or without the willingness of Family Tree Medical Associates to work with the Hospital in developing this process." Pennock Hospital is one of the first hospitals in Michigan to implement a two-way information exchange between a physician office and the hospital with Meditech Lab orders. "Our plan is to implement Radiology orders in the near future, adding more physician offices as software permits," noted Herbstreith. A special thank you goes to Patient Registration (Judith Appleby and Brian Smit), Laboratory (Joy Oglesby), and Medical Records (Robyn Todd).