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Toronto firm launches physician-to-patient mobile app

By: Rafael Ruffolo On: 24 Mar 2010 For: ComputerWorld Canada **COMPUTERWORLD**

The MobiSecure app from Toronto-based Diversinet, a new version of which was officially launched earlier this week at the International CITA Wireless conference in Las Vegas, is currently being tested by The Blue Sky Family Health Team in North Bay, Ont.

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A Toronto-based firm has launched a new Web-based mobile application to speed up and improve the interaction between patients and their physicians.



Diversinet Corp. officially unveiled MobiSecure SMS and the latest version of MobiSecure Wallet and Vault, apps designed to allow patients to keep up to date on their personal health records via their mobile devices. The apps, which also works over the Web, supports over 200 types of mobile devices, including BlackBerry, iPhone, and Android-based handsets.

In addition to improving the patient-physician relationship, the apps also seeks to address the security messaging needs within the health-care industry, Diversinet said.

With both the apps, users can receive appointment reminders, test results, prescription information, immunization records, allergy information, and other related medical data. For users involved in a medical emergency abroad, the app will be able to connect back to a patient medical history and information about insurance coverage.

The goal of all these capabilities is to reduce unnecessary office visits and boost patient understanding of personal health issues.

In terms of privacy and security, Diversinet said the app features strong mobile encryption and two-factor bilateral authentication. The app will be PIN-protected for the patient, while the physician is able to confirm delivery via read confirmations.

"Physicians can come up with whole new use cases that they wouldn't have done before because of security or privacy issues," said Jay Couse, senior vice-president of Diversinet.

One Canadian health-care facility is already piloting the new MobiSecure Wallet and Vault tool.

North Bay, Ont.-based Blue Sky Family Health Team, a health-care centre which specializes in diabetes, obesity, cholesterol management and lung disease, has used the app since December. The health-care organization said that 100 patients are using the application in the test project, which runs until June.

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Rafael Ruffolo joined ComputerWorld as a staff writer in June 2007 and was the winner of a Kenneth R. Wilson award for business journalism. He is interested in government IT, copyright, virt... more

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Eric

by 3/25/2010 11:17:54 AM

Security appears to be RSA, how slow is that and how secure?

Will this tie into eHealth Ontario, if that ever materializes?

Yvonne

by 4/8/2010 3:18:44 PM

Great idea, but I wonder what the physicians think of it - considering they like the quick visits to discuss test results and book any 'specialist' appointments so they can bill for it. This could bring down the cost of medicare somewhat and free up physicians' time for more serious cases. I personally think our entire medical history should be on a locket around our necks. It would speed up ER wait times, getting that identical tedious info - and what for? It's mostly all paid for in Canada. You'd simply lean over, get it scanned and it's all there for any medical facility in Canada. Why aren't we doing this? Make it super secure and make it happen - please!

Don Power

by 4/23/2010 2:11:31 PM

It's amazing that 97% of patients polled in this the health centre mentioned in that article wanted test results emailed or texted to them.

The future is MOBILE!

Don Power

Webacom

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