



## **Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare Recognized for Outstanding Achievements in Healthcare Delivery**

*Health System Named Winner of 2009 McKesson VIP Award*

**[MILWAUKEE]– July 29, 2009** — Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare has received a 2009 VIP Award from McKesson Technology Solutions for its success in using information technology (IT) to enhance patient safety across its nine hospital sites and more than 100 physician office sites. The VIP Awards are presented annually to organizations that demonstrate vision, innovation and performance in the use of healthcare IT.

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare is one of five health care organizations selected this year by a panel of judges – who are considered experts in the field of healthcare IT use – to receive the award. In honor of its achievements, the system's local foundation will receive a \$10,000 grant from McKesson.

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare used McKesson IT solutions to connect patient information among its sites with its Electronic Health Record (EHR). Doctors now can securely view patient information whether they are in the hospital, in the office, or at home, without having to wait for a paper patient chart. This means they can make more informed decisions faster and sign off on charts electronically – boosting both the safety and efficiency of patient care.

In addition, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare is in the final stages of implementing electronic submission of physician orders with a computerized physician order entry system. This process minimizes medication errors by eliminating confusion caused by illegible handwriting as well as checking for drug interactions and allergies. At the patient bedside, nurses are using bar-code scanning technology to scan patient wristbands and medications, helping to ensure the “five rights” of patient safety: the right drug, dose, patient, route and time.

“We needed to focus on supporting physicians and other practitioners because that leads to improved quality of care for our patients,” said John Oliverio, President and CEO Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare. “Our goal with the EHR initiative was to facilitate easy access to the clinical information they need to provide the best care possible. The EHR helped us achieve that goal.”

Using the clinical applications, the organization not only has connected and standardized care, but also is improving productivity and quality, avoiding medication errors, and reducing costs. Over five years, financial benefits related to the initiative are expected to total more than \$70 million. Examples include:

- Adverse Drug Events – Exceeded the 90th percentile of hospitals in avoiding adverse drug events
- Physician Data Access – 100% increase in physician portal logins since July 2006
- Computerized Physician Order Entry – 71% reduction in the number of ordering options which improves efficiency and decreases the potential for errors



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- Radiology – \$2 million savings in radiology staff and decreased film and storage costs as of April 2009
- Medical Records – 20% savings in clerical staff from document imaging solution and 94 percent decrease in patient record storage costs at one site
- Emergency Department – 40% increase in one site's revenue due to better documentation

“As the industry prepares for government stimulus incentives, implementing EHRs and optimizing the use of health IT have become even higher priorities for hospitals and physicians,” said Michael Brozino, senior vice president of marketing, McKesson Provider Technologies. “Our customers have long understood the role that health IT can play in reducing the cost of care while providing the best possible treatment to patients. It’s an honor to recognize these customers for their outstanding achievements.”

VIP Award applicants underwent a rigorous judging process based on six weighted criteria: definition of the business objective, quality of the process used to make improvements, use of McKesson solution in enabling the improvement, impact on clinical and/or financial issues, improvement in service to the community, and the method used to measure results.

For more information on the award, visit [www.mckesson.com/VIPawardnews](http://www.mckesson.com/VIPawardnews).

### ***About McKesson***

McKesson Corporation, currently ranked 15<sup>th</sup> on the FORTUNE 500, is a healthcare services and information technology company dedicated to helping its customers deliver high-quality healthcare by reducing costs, streamlining processes, and improving the quality and safety of patient care. McKesson has been in continuous operation for more than 175 years, making it the longest operating company in healthcare today. Over the course of its history, McKesson has grown by providing pharmaceutical and medical-surgical supply management across the spectrum of care; healthcare information technology for hospitals, physicians, homecare and payers; hospital and retail pharmacy automation; and services for manufacturers and payers designed to improve outcomes for patients. For more information, visit <http://www.mckesson.com>.

### ***About Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare***

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare is a Catholic, not-for-profit organization with more than 100 sites in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois including 16 hospital sites, four long-term care facilities, two home health agencies, more than 3,500 physicians, 70 clinic sites with approximately 600 employed physicians, and nearly 23,000 associates. Started more than 125 years ago and formally incorporated in 1983, WFH is sponsored by the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters. Corporate services offices are located in Wheaton, Illinois and Glendale, Wisconsin. Wheaton Franciscan Services, Inc. also operates a housing division known as Franciscan Ministries, Inc. with approximately 2,800 units of assisted living and other housing.