MyMontefiore Patient Portal Expands

MyMontefiore, the online patient portal currently available to Montefiore Medical Group (MMG) patients, will expand to Montefiore specialty practice sites in the months ahead.

The portal currently allows patients to send secure messages to their doctors, as well as request appointments and prescription refills. This summer, users will be able to access and print additional information from their medical records, such as lab and test results.

Patients are encouraged to learn how to sign up for the service when they visit their doctor. After registering, patients can access the portal through www.MyMontefiore.org.

The effort to expand MyMontefiore to the specialty practices follows a campaign that began last year by the MyMontefiore Deployment Team, composed of specialists from Montefiore Care Management (CMO) and Montefiore IT, to increase utilization of the portal by both physicians and patients at MMG sites.

The expansion effort is designed to help Montefiore meet the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) Meaningful Use requirements. To qualify for incentives and avoid penalties under the program, 50 percent of patients being seen during the reporting period must have clinical data released to the patient portal, five percent must view or download clinical data via the portal and five percent must send secure messages to their care provider.

“Patient portals such as MyMontefiore are the foundation on which the future of healthcare will be built,” says Andrew Racine, MD, PhD, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Montefiore, and Executive Director, Montefiore Medical Group. “Montefiore is continuously advancing its technological platform and the expansion of our patient portal is emblematic of these efforts.”

Hitting a High Note During Nurses Week

Montefiore’s Associate Choirs commemorated National Nurses Week with jam-packed performances at the Moses, Einstein and Wakefield Campuses earlier this month. Many of the choir members were nurses. Veronica Thompson, RN, Clinical In-Service Instructor, Montefiore, an active member of her church choir, was eager to team up with colleagues. “I heard about Montefiore’s choir through a coworker and was excited to be a part of it,” she says.

Singer-songwriter and choral director Cat Guthrie oversaw the Montefiore choirs. Musical selections ranged from well-known standards such as “Stand By Me” to folk songs. The choirs were conceived through Montefiore’s Healing Arts Program. “We wanted to celebrate this year’s Nurses Week with a joyous activity that would bring all our associates together,” says Ronit Fallek, Director, Healing Arts Program, Montefiore.

Nurses Week also acknowledged the enormous impact of nurses such as Paula Ferrante, RNC, IBCLC, MeD, Perinatal Clinical Nurse Specialist, Montefiore. Ms. Ferrante was the 2014 recipient of the prestigious Joan H. Bilder Award, an honor bestowed annually to a nurse who exhibits clinical excellence in nursing care. The award is given in memory of Ms. Bilder, a former Director of Nursing at the Einstein Campus.

On May 9, Schaffer Extended Care Center hosted a reception honoring residents and patients who were previously nurses. Attendees shared stories about their decision to pursue careers in nursing. The reception culminated in each attendee receiving a certificate honoring their contribution to the nursing profession.

Embrace Healthy Living in the Bronx

Sunday, June 1 | Noon–4:00 pm
Moses Campus | Main Entrance on East 210th Street

Montefiore is sponsoring a health fair to promote the importance of healthy living in the local community. Highlights include exercise classes, health screenings, healthy cooking demonstrations and family-oriented activities, as well as community health programs and services.

For more information, contact Community and Population Health at 718-920-6058.

Subject Matter Experts Weigh-In on Round II of Epic Validation

Nearly 1,000 Montefiore Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) provided clinical and operational guidance in determining workflows for Epic as the second round of Validation sessions continued on the Moses, Einstein and Wakefield Campuses and facilities across Montefiore Health System. SMEs strived to refine workflow questions from Validation session I. They also resolved variances in Montefiore’s current processes and systems as the team from Epic’s Wisconsin headquarters presented diagrams of draft future state workflow options.

“We included more SMEs in our second round of Validation sessions because Epic is a complex and integrated system, and as well as community health programs and services.”

Montefiore is a complex and growing organization,” says Michael Prilutsky, Vice President and Executive Project Director of Epic at Montefiore. “Epic implementation is a collaborative, fast-paced process that requires constant engagement from the actual end users and stakeholders. As part of the process, Validation sessions provide transparency into the project’s decision-making. It is about a balance of system building and critical-thinking and making recommendations that work for everyone.”

Montefiore is relying on SMEs from all areas of the Health System to ensure an effective configuration-build of the Epic system. Discussions of workflow interoperability functions will continue in Validation session III June 10–12.
Montefiore to Upgrade to Windows 7

Montefiore IT has started the process of upgrading all workstations to Windows 7 and an updated version of Internet Explorer. It will take several months to complete all workstations throughout the organization. The first groups will be the SAP HCM super users and Home Care. To initiate the upgrade process within each department, a Montefiore IT technician will conduct a scheduled site survey to assess the existing software and data files on each workstation. Following the site survey, the technician will return and begin the actual upgrade.

To minimize disruption, the upgrade will be done after business hours. For areas that operate 24/7, the upgrade will be performed during the evening/night shifts. Montefiore IT anticipates a seamless transition, preserving each associate’s user preferences, favorites, settings, directory structure and unique data. Workstations that are encrypted for additional security will need to be decrypted prior to the upgrade date. These workstations will not be accessible during the decryption process. To shorten the decryption time, associates are asked to move – not copy – as many files as possible to their (H:\) or departmental (I:\) network drives.

The Windows 7 desktop interface is very similar to Windows XP. “Windows 7 Tips & Tricks” and a “Guide to Getting Around the Desktop” can be found on the Montefiore IT intranet page, http://intranet/MontefioreIT.

DesktopUpgrade@montefiore.org.

Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care Named LIVESTRONG Grant Recipient

For the second year, the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care has been named a LIVESTRONG Community Impact Project award recipient. This award was created by the LIVESTRONG Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by cancer.

Montefiore came in first place in the Northeast region in a competitive online voting process. Additionally, says Ronit Fallek, Director, Healing Arts Program, Montefiore, with 4,130 votes, Montefiore received the highest number of votes of all regions. The one-year grant will be used to expand music therapy services for children and adults being treated for cancer at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) and the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care.

Physicians Represented at Internal Medicine Conference 2014

The Department of Medicine at Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital was well represented in the American College of Physicians Internal Medicine Conference 2014 in Orlando, Florida. Medical residents Sandhya Manohar, MD, and Melissa Aleta, MD, presented their posters in the resident and fellow section. They were accompanied by Prasanta Basak, MD, FACP, attending physician, Montefiore New Rochelle, who was invited to be a judge in the poster competition. Dr. Manohar and Dr. Basak, as well as Stephen Jesmajian, MD, Program Director and Chief of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Montefiore New Rochelle, presented “Unusual Presentations of Infectious Mononucleosis.” Drs. Aleta, Basak, Jesmajian and Ashutosh Naaraayan, MD, presented "Leukemoid reaction to C. difficile colitis."

What Goals for Healthcare in New York City?

Thursday, June 12 | 1:30–2:30 pm
Cherkasky Auditorium, Moses Campus

Acclaimed economist Jeffrey Sachs, PhD, Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University, will be speaking about healthcare goals in New York City. The event is part of Montefiore’s first Global Health Grand Rounds, co-sponsored by Einstein’s Global Health Center. It is also a highlight of the eighth annual Montefiore Einstein Global Health Course.

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A Trialist and Investigator Training Program
Sponsored by the Office of Clinical Trials
Thursday, August 7 | Friday, August 8 | 8:00 am–5:00 pm
Grand Hall, Moses Campus

This two-day symposium will cover the interests, tasks and needs of trialists at Montefiore and Einstein. Topics include stages of drug development, FDA regulations of the pharmaceutical industry and more.

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