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Survey Finds Standardization of Care, Best Practices through Evidence-Based Care Key Objectives of Order Sets

MINNEAPOLIS - (November 3, 2008) - Standardized care and improved quality through the practice of evidence-based medicine are hospitals' top objectives for order sets, according to the findings of a recent independent national survey conducted on behalf of Wolters Kluwer Health, a leading global provider of information for healthcare professionals and students.

Of the hospital managers surveyed, 28 percent cited standardization of patient care and 23 percent cited the desire to improve quality by following best practices through evidence-based care as the primary objectives for order set development within their facilities.

Other common objectives were:

- Improved patient safety (12 percent)
- Reduction in medication errors (12 percent)
- Improved efficiency (9 percent)
- Cost control (5 percent)

The survey, conducted by Renaissance Research, consisted of telephone interviews with 43 hospital managers who were likely to be involved in order sets creation and management. These included P&T Committee chairs, nursing directors, pharmacy services directors, risk management directors and risk/compliance managers.

Sixty percent of respondents said their facility has developed at least one order set and are working on more; 37 percent said development was complete and the focus was now on maintenance. The most common order sets were associated with adult inpatient (93 percent), emergency department (70 percent) and cardiology (60 percent).

For most respondents, the need for order sets was driven by quality, regulatory and accreditation issues. To that end, more than 80 percent expected order set creation to address Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and JCAHO quality measures. Forty-four percent had the same expectations for meeting Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) measures.

“This survey demonstrates the growing importance hospitals are placing on development and maintenance of order sets to enhance the quality of care, reduce errors, increase safety and ensure regulatory compliance,” said **Arvind Subramanian**, President and CEO, Wolters Kluwer Health Clinical Solutions. “When the order set process is automated with software solutions such as ProVation® Order Sets, facilities are able to achieve these objectives more rapidly, and they benefit from reduced administrative costs and improved clinician workflow.”

ProVation Order Sets is an actionable, evidenced-based order set authoring and management solution that allows hospitals to put evidence-based healthcare into practice by establishing and maintaining standards of care. It helps improve patient care by providing easy access to a comprehensive repository of evidence; reduces costs related to medication errors and increases patient safety through built-in standardization at the point of care; aids implementation of evidence-based practice across medical specialties; and provides a solid return on investment by simplifying the order set review and approval process.

The latest version of ProVation Order Sets, released by Wolters Kluwer Health in September, includes a number of new features designed to further enhance and streamline the order set authoring process. These include the ability to scan and attach documents to specific comments, receive updates when FDA alerts and new order set content are published, and apply unique version identifiers to order sets each time they are saved. Seventy-five new order sets have also been added in Inpatient, Emergency and Outpatient categories.

About Wolters Kluwer Health

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