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Improving Patient Safety and Convenience, Free e-Prescribing Offered to Bay Area Physicians

(Tampa, FL) July 31, 2008 - The Tampa Bay Health e-Connection (TBHC) is offering free e- Prescribing to participating Bay area physicians through the National e-Prescribing Patient Safety Initiative (NEPSI). This program is especially vital to physicians who do not currently have access to e-Prescribing through Electronic Medical Records or another e-Prescribe system.

E-Prescribing means patients and physicians alike will benefit from increased convenience and safety. According to Florida Malpractice News, approximately 30 percent of all medical malpractice claims involve drug-related injuries. Electronic prescribing decreases these concerns by performing instant checks on drug interactions, dosage levels and patient specific information such as allergies and prior adverse reactions. No longer are pharmacists forced to decipher handwritten prescriptions and patients are no longer responsible for transporting their own prescriptions to the pharmacy.

Recent legislation provides more incentives than ever for physicians to use e-Prescribing. The new law will offer incentive payments to physicians for e-Prescribing over the next several years, with gradually increasing payment reductions for those who choose to prescribe manually. David Schlaifer, President and CEO of Doctors' Administrative Solutions and founder of the TBHC, points out that "the current measures only apply to Medicare payments, but we have seen private payers follow Medicare's lead in the past."

"The system is secure," said Schlaifer, "Patient information is protected by privacy and security measures including physician authentication." Any interested Tampa Bay licensed physician can register at www.dr-connect.com.

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About the Tampa Bay Health e-Connection

The Tampa Bay Health e-Connection is a physician-driven, consumer-centric Health Information Exchange (HIE). By creating a connected healthcare community, the TBHC is improving the safety, security, cost, and convenience of health care in the Tampa Bay area. Connecting physicians, home health care providers, laboratories, diagnostic centers, payers, hospitals and other key members of the healthcare community, the TBHC is establishing Tampa Bay as a leading edge healthcare community, saving lives and money in the process.

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