



## **Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota Installs New Web-Based Technology to Help Physicians Diagnose Difficult Cases**

Minneapolis, July 31, 2008 -- The Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota have implemented a unique Web-based computer program that uses a search engine to instantly search a large medical knowledge data base to help physicians find a diagnosis in difficult cases.

The new computer system, from Isabel Healthcare Inc. (Falls Church, VA), enables physicians to enter a patient's signs and symptoms and instantly receive back a list of likely diagnoses to consider. Physicians can click on each diagnosis to view journal articles and images from medical texts. The knowledge base contains 11,000 potential diagnoses, 4,200 drugs and 10,000 articles from medical journals. The system is 95% accurate and enables physicians to sort through complex cases and arrive at a final diagnosis and treatment plan in less than five minutes.

"Isabel is a modern technology tool to assist physicians in making sure they look after a patient based on all their symptoms," said Phillip M. Kibort, MD, MBA, Vice President Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota.

"In my role as CMO, I sometimes review cases where double-checking the initial diagnosis using Isabel might have resulted in a different course of treatment or at least further investigation into symptoms that may not have been typical. Isabel provides a physician with a quick checklist of likely diagnosis that can be cross-referenced to their initial assessment, enhancing the diagnostic accuracy," Dr. Kibort added.

In addition, Emily Chapman, MD, Director of Graduate Medical Education at the hospital noted she uses Isabel with medical students and residents.

### **Isabel Healthcare Inc**

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“Each day, we present a single unknown case in a teaching conference, focusing on the potential differential diagnosis. Now that we have Isabel, we routinely project the search results in real time during the conference to compare our thoughts to Isabel's. It challenges our assumptions, and augments the educational value of our conference,” she said.

Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota is the seventh-largest children’s health care organization in the U.S., with 332 beds at its two hospital campuses in St. Paul and Minneapolis. It is also included in the list of “America’s Best Children’s Hospitals” found in U.S.News & World Report, to view, <http://health.usnews.com/sections/health/best-hospitals>

According to Joseph Britto, MD, Chief Executive Officer and Cofounder, Isabel Healthcare, Inc., “Far from replacing physicians’ diagnostic skill, Isabel acts as a resource to reduce potential diagnostic error. With patient satisfaction growing more important and the reality of hospital risk management becoming a primary concern, hospital chief medical officers are increasingly looking for ways to improve the quality of patient care. Isabel is easy to use and fits into the existing physician workflow—two valuable considerations for every hospital IT purchase.”

A report in the May 2008 American Journal of Medicine placed the rate of diagnostic error in clinical medicine at 15% of all cases in the U.S. A 2006 report by the AHRQ found that diagnosis errors far outnumber medication errors as a cause of malpractice claims lodged (26% for missed diagnoses vs. 12% for drug errors).

The Isabel system In the US., the Isabel system is now in use at 12% of the leading hospitals which form the Child Health Corporation of America, as well as major U.S. medical centers, including Loma Linda Medical Center, Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital, University of Virginia Health System, Seattle Children’s Hospital, Washington University School of Medicine and Carle Foundation Hospital. Healthcare institutions in six countries use the system. The software is available as a stand-alone subscription or interfaced with electronic medical records systems.

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Isabel Healthcare, based in Falls Church, VA, was founded in 2000 by Jason Maude and Dr. Britto, a pediatrician. The company is named after Maude's young daughter, who almost died in 1999 after a potentially fatal illness was not recognized by family and ER physicians. For company background, see <http://www.isabelhealthcare.com/home/faq>

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