



## **Newton-Wellesley Hospital First in Massachusetts to Implement Isabel Diagnosis Decision Support System**

### ***Technology Aids in Diagnostic Decision-Making; Quality Patient Care a Top Priority at Newton-Wellesley***

Reston, Va., and Newton, Mass.—October 3, 2007—Newton-Wellesley Hospital and Isabel Healthcare today announced Newton-Wellesley’s use of the Isabel decision support system to aid in formulating accurate and timely diagnoses. Committed to superior patient care, the implementation kicks off an initiative to affirm the quality of diagnostic decision-making processes at the hospital.

Newton-Wellesley is the first Massachusetts hospital to provide its 1,100 physicians access to the Isabel technology system. Isabel’s concept was brought to Newton-Wellesley by Dr. Jim Kaplan, a member of the Board of Trustees, who believed that web-based decision support at the point of care would help further ensure accurate diagnoses.

“The evidence is overwhelming: early, accurate intervention is crucial in managing disease,” said Les Selbovitz, M.D., Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. “The first step is timely, effective diagnosis. Our newly launched, diagnostic decision-making initiative underpins Newton-Wellesley’s overarching goal—providing the best patient care available. Additionally, Isabel Healthcare is working closely with us to comprehensively monitor, measure and manage diagnosis decision-making, institution-wide.”

The Isabel system arms physicians with the most up-to-date and relevant information, leveraging a clinical database of more than 11,000 diagnoses. It allows physicians to instantly analyze patient symptoms and clinical features. In a split second at the point of care, Isabel addresses the question clinicians frequently ask themselves: what are the diagnoses I should be considering?

Published this September, a peer-reviewed study suggests Isabel displayed the final, accurate diagnosis in 95 percent of real adult

emergency room (ER) cases. Isabel acts as an instant reminder system and aids the diagnosis process, however, it is up to the provider's clinical judgment to determine which diagnoses to investigate and treat.

"We are increasingly becoming aware of the human and financial cost of misdiagnosis," said Joseph Britto, M.D., Chief Executive Officer of Isabel Healthcare. "With an ever-expanding range of diseases and symptoms afflicting patients today, making the correct diagnosis early is vital. Newton-Wellesley is taking a leadership role in quality patient care, by affirming that a full range of possible diagnoses are considered for every patient."

### **About Newton-Wellesley Hospital**

Newton-Wellesley Hospital is a full system member of Partners HealthCare System, Inc. (PHCS), a nonprofit organization that includes acute care hospitals Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's/Faulkner Hospitals, The North Shore Medical Center, and specialty hospitals McLean Hospital and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, as well as Dana-Farber/Partners CancerCare, and the community-based doctors and hospitals of Partners Community HealthCare, Inc.

Newton-Wellesley Hospital provides a wide range of services, including medical, surgical, orthopedic, obstetrical, pediatric and psychiatric care. Newton-Wellesley has been serving its community for 125 years. It is a major teaching hospital for Tufts University School of Medicine and for resident physicians from the Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital. The medical staff of the Hospital includes 1,100 physicians practicing a full range of specialties.

### **About Isabel Healthcare**

Reston, Virginia based Isabel Healthcare, was founded in 2000 by Jason Maude and Dr. Joseph Britto, and is named after Maude's daughter who almost died after a potentially fatal illness was not recognized by family and emergency room physicians. The Isabel system, is comprised of two point of care components: the Isabel Diagnosis Reminder System (IDRS) and the Isabel Knowledge Mobilizing System (IKMS). Given a patient's clinical features, Isabel searches a database of more than 11,000 diagnoses and 4,000 drugs to provide clinicians with a checklist of likely diagnoses and/or drugs that may be causing a patient's symptoms, as well as additional disease specific knowledge. The Isabel system, validated in clinical trials, is designed to improve patient safety and quality of care by

minimizing diagnosis error. For more information, please visit <http://www.isabelhealthcare.com>.

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