

# US' Isabel diagnostic support system enters India

C H UNNIKRISHNAN  
Mumbai, 29 March

isabelhealthcare.com (Isabel), one of the most successful and path-breaking medical support systems in Europe and the US, has made its way into India.

While the system has already been implemented at Manipal Hospital in Bangalore, nine other hospitals, including two in Mumbai and one in Delhi, are currently in talks with the company to have multiple installations of the system.

Isabel Healthcare Inc is in talks with leading hospitals in India for the implementation of the system and is likely to have over 10,000 users by 2007-end.

Since the diagnostic error is a major cause of fatality in hospitals all over the world, the new concept of diagnosis support must have come as a real boon to the medical fraternity.

Isabel is a web-based clinical decision support system designed to enhance the quality of diagnosis decision making. The system, which helps minimising diagnostic and medical decision errors in the hospitals, has received an encouraging response from corporate hospitals as well as practising doctors in the country.

The system sends out medical alerts to a doctor after receiving feedback from him on the patient's disease-history and symptoms. The alerts indicate all possible causes of the disease. Thus, the system nullifies chances of doctors missing any diagnostic indication.

Besides, Isabel provides crucial tips to doctors on correlated treatment process and further advancements in diagnosis.

"Our objective through this technology convergence is to help reduce diagnosis and decision error and provide clinicians with relevant knowledge in their workflow to help them improve the quality of care," Joseph Britto, chief executive officer and co-founder, Isabel Healthcare, said.

One of the unique features of this award-winning system is diagnosis reminder.

For a given set of clinical features, Isabel instantly provides a checklist of likely diagnoses including bio-terrorism conditions, related diagnoses and causative drugs, he added.

Manipal Hospital sources said the new system not only assists in making the right diagnosis, but its knowledge-mobilising system helps answer clinical questions with up to date knowledge.

Jaidev Aurora, a leading medical consultant in Mumbai said Isabel has proved a fast, easy-to-use diagnostic support system that improves patient's safety and quality of care by augmenting providers' knowledge and cognitive skills in hospital and family practice.

Isabel, which uses natural language-processing software rather than standard 'key word' searches, is apparently one of the most user-friendly web-based solutions in the healthcare segment.