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NEWS RELEASE

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Esse Health Unveils New Electronic Health Records System

Physician group will also roll-out on-line patient portal this fall

ST. LOUIS – St. Louis-based physician group Esse Health announced an upgrade to a new electronic health records system. After a decade of operating on an electronic medical records system developed internally, Esse Health is upgrading to a new system that will improve the quality of care and customer service it provides to its more than 144,000 patients. The new system, which launched in several offices last week, will be rolled out in Esse Health's 28 physician offices by September of this year. During the next phase, Esse Health will introduce an on-line patient portal which will allow patients to access their medical records, request prescription refills and talk to their healthcare provider through a secure and private network.

"Although approximately only one quarter of the country's physicians and healthcare groups are using electronic medical records, Esse Health has been operating with them for the past 10 years and is invested in continuing to provide our patients with the best service available through this new system," said Erin Stamm, Director of Coding and Health Information, who has been leading the project. "We will continue to search for technological advances, such as our upcoming on-line portal, which will further enhance our patient's experience."

After research and comparative analysis of different options, Esse Health purchased and upgraded to the new system, NextGen, in 2010. The physician group is partnering with KIG Healthcare Solutions for the ongoing implementation process.

Esse Health is a St. Louis-based physician group that strives to improve the overall well-being of its patients through patient education, lifestyle modification and prevention. With 28 locations throughout the St. Louis and Metro East area, Esse Health's services include asthma, allergy and immunology, family medicine, internal medicine, nutrition, pediatrics and radiology. Esse Health is recognized as a leader in using technology in health care and physician accountability for both quality and cost-of-care. For more information on Esse Health, visit www.essehealth.com.