



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Patient Tracking Requirements Summit on December 6

WASHINGTON, DC – November 30, 2005 – COMCARE and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) are hosting the 2005 National Patient Tracking Requirements Summit at The George Washington University Executive Education Center on December 6.

The Integrated Patient Tracking Initiative (IPTI) sponsored by COMCARE and the VHHA is developing a national consensus on requirements for these systems that communities and regions can use when acquiring their own patient tracking programs.

“Patient tracking programs have been deployed on a limited scale in a few areas of the country, but these systems are usually limited in their scope” stated Dr. Jack Potter, Director of Emergency Services for the Valley Health System and co-chair of the IPTI Patient Care subcommittee. “IPTI is defining what a patient tracking program that integrates the entire spectrum of information needs in the emergency response continuum should look like.”

Dr. Robert Bass, President of the National Association of State EMS Officials and a COMCARE Director stated, “EMS, 911, Red Cross, emergency managers, hospitals, and the private sector all have information to contribute to such systems, and need information from them. This event puts some of the most knowledgeable practitioners in the fields of homeland security, health information technology and emergency response in the same room to seek agreement on the overall requirements for these systems.”

The conference has several goals:

- Provide a forum where practitioners, technology vendors, and other interested parties can share ideas about patient tracking systems and needs;
- Reach agreement on high-level requirements;
- Ensure that the requirements respond to the needs of the wide variety of emergency response agencies, and address recent lessons learned from several emergency events;
- Identify potential technologies that could be incorporated into open architecture solutions;
- Explore obstacles and challenges to implementing integrated patient tracking systems;
- Develop specific plans for subsequent phases of the project.

Please visit <http://comcare.org/Summit.html> for more information.

About VHHA and COMCARE

VHHA includes 62 member health systems and hospitals, representing 95 community, psychiatric and specialty hospitals throughout Virginia. VHHA’s mission is to improve the health status of the communities its members serve. See www.vhha.org. COMCARE is a national non-profit alliance

dedicated to advancing emergency response. COMCARE's 100+ organizational members represent the wide diversity of the emergency response community. For more information visit www.comcare.org.

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