



## **EVMS Health Services Earns National Recognition for Electronic Health Initiative Benefiting Patients**

For the second year in a row, EVMS Health Services has been named the winner of a national award for excellence in improving patient care using computers to automate and connect their physicians. The “Inform Award” was presented to EVMS Health Services last week at a national convention in Chicago for the 40,000 physician clients of Allscripts, the leading provider of clinical software, connectivity and information solutions that physicians use to improve healthcare.

EVMS Health Services, the faculty medical practice of the Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), was singled out as the winner of the 2008 “Inform Award,” presented to the healthcare organization that demonstrates the most innovative use of clinical information to improve quality of care and operational performance. The medical group also won the Inform Award last year, becoming the first of Allscripts’ more than 5,000 clients nationwide to earn back-to-back honors. EVMS Health Services implemented the web-based Allscripts Enterprise Electronic Health Record, or EHR (formerly TouchWorks), in 2004 to automate and connect its more than 150 physicians in 17 specialties across 31 sites.

“Thanks to the leadership of L. D. Britt, MD, MPH and Richard Bikowski, MD, EVMS Health Services has maintained an unwavering commitment to delivering quality patient care. The Electronic Health Record has proven to be the springboard for a powerful quality program and related initiatives, including the implementation of iHealth™, the Allscripts patient portal offered through Medem, which enables patients to go online to make appointments, access their health records, and consult with their physician. The practice also has realized other benefits such as improved efficiency, better decision-support data, and a return on investment that is 20 percent

greater than EVMSHS originally estimated” said James F. Lind, Jr., MBA, the Chief Executive Officer of EVMS Health Services.

The EHR produces significant advances in patient care because the software acts as a total, coordinated, centralized care system allowing instantaneous appointment scheduling, record entry and retrieval of information from any of the practice’s specialties and locations. The physicians feel confident that information is readily available in the EHR and that it is reflected in the quality of care delivered, specifically by ensuring safety in prescribing, legibility of records, quick response to medication recalls, and the ability to easily identify early outcome indicators in chronic disease management.

“EVMS Health Services is a true leader, based not only on their key role in implementing our electronic health record, where they have achieved incredible results, but also on their leadership within the Hampton Roads physician and medical IT community,” said Glen Tullman, Chief Executive Officer of Allscripts. “Allscripts is extremely proud to count EVMS as our client and we congratulate them on winning this well-deserved honor for an unprecedented second year in a row.”