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MedChartPrevention Incorporates Injury Prevention to Control Workers Compensation Costs

Philadelphia, PA, April 19, 2004 — AVI Service Technologies and ConduIT Corporation introduce a new Personal Injury Prevention module of MedChartPrevention, an internet-based preventive care program. With the new module, MedChartPrevention is a personal injury and disease prevention web service that identifies, organizes and tracks individual occupational safety and medical recommendations for the prevention of the most common injuries and diseases. The technology evaluates disease and personal injury risks in order to reduce workers compensation claims and health related absenteeism.

“We needed to help our customers control workers compensation costs,” said Andre Duggin, chairman of AV International, a workers compensation consultancy and administration firm. “Most programs focus on faster recovery for the injured employee, which is important and effective, but prevention is certainly the best way to control costs. When we studied MedChartPrevention, we saw it as a truly innovative solution that would be easily available to our customer base of middle market businesses.”

ConduIT added Scott McPhee, DrPH, an occupational health and safety expert, to its team of medical experts led by Dr. Ryan Bosch to incorporate evidenced-based best practices surrounding injury prevention. MedChartPrevention guides the employee through a secure, thorough, online interview about personal health history, family history, social habits and normal daily activities to assess risks surrounding 90% of the most common preventable diseases and causes of workers compensation claims. At the end of the interview, it provides an individualized risk assessment with abundant resources for help, most notably the “Why Me?” videos that explain the causes of the risks and recommend actions for minimizing those risks.

Although individual interview results are completely secure to protect employee privacy rights, aggregate data is available to employers to help assess overall health and workplace injury risks and to take preventive actions for the group. An employer might for example sponsor back-care training upon discovering that its workforce has a high incidence of pre-existing back pain.

Employer-Sponsored Wellness Programs

Employee wellness programs have long been advocated as a way to decrease healthcare costs, reduce absenteeism and increase productivity, and have historically delivered between 3:1 and 6:1 return on investment. Wellness programs are defined as programs designed to maintain or improve employee health before problems arise. A comprehensive wellness program should focus on: 1) increasing awareness of wellness issues, 2) supporting health management and 3) promoting healthy work climates. Examples include health assessments, training, informational brochures and on-site fitness centers.

“We recognized that while wellness programs are important to the implicit social contract that employers have with their employees, a wellness program limited to preventing life-threatening diseases likely to surface years from now is not as attractive as one that delivers payback within the next six months to a year,” says Rich Smith, president of eDoc4U division of ConduIT, a Nashville-based investment firm that commercializes information technologies and is responsible for MedChartPrevention. “The decision to integrate injury prevention, where payback is very quick, was easy. And it is available to employees and their dependents since it is accessed through the web.”

Occupational Safety

According to the most recent U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report (3/25/04), 10 million work days are lost annually from over 1.4 million occupational injuries and illnesses. Occupational safety initiatives attempt to combat these costs through inclusion of employee training, task redesign and ergonomic improvements. However, many injuries result from pre-existing problems or other health conditions unknown to the employer. The limitation of occupational safety initiatives is that for the most part, they are limited to worksite activities. Yet, absenteeism occurs from illness and injury resulting from activities both on and off the job.

Although it was originally conceived as an occupational safety initiative, the MedChartPrevention Personal Injury Prevention module is designed to be family friendly and always available. It focuses on identifying risks based on pre-existing health conditions and providing a broad range of health maintenance and injury prevention assistance applicable both on the job and away from work.

About MedChartPrevention Injury Prevention Module

The Injury Prevention module uses activities and behaviors, pre-existing conditions and medical history to predict an individual’s risk of injury. Information boxes accompany each interview question to provide clarification. For example, users can find the definition of a contusion by clicking the info boxes next to questions using that term.

MedChartPrevention’s multi-media recommendations are well-suited to injury prevention. The technology provides users with individual risk profiles for both disease and injury prevention. The risk profiles are linked to an organized presentation of prevention resources including text, streaming video and specific suggestions such as discussion points for the next physician visit. The user controls how much detail he or she requires and additional links to other sources can fuel a research project.

Users are encouraged to remain engaged with their wellness through periodic newsletters and reminders to update their MedChartPrevention profile. Employers can produce a dozen different management reports to support their overall wellness initiatives without compromising individual employee privacy. The entire application is hosted at secure data centers using state-of-the-art technologies (Microsoft’s .Net architecture) providing fast and reliable implementations.

Visit www.medchartprevention.com.

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