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Cornelius, NC Arrendale Associates, Inc. (AAI) announces that it has recently joined the Health Story Project, an alliance of healthcare systems, IT vendors and health-related organizations to further the adoption of data standards for the movement of clinical information from traditionally-dictated narrative into electronic medical record (EMR) systems. The Health Story Project's initiative of producing data standards for the transfer of clinical narrative into electronic health records will assist healthcare organizations and their medical transcription service organizations (MTSOs) alike. The continuing growth of EMR systems and the initial lack of interfacing standards has resulted in expensive and time consuming efforts for healthcare system IT departments and their MTSO partners to move physician dictation into EMRs. Arrendale brings extensive experience with HL7 interfaces, healthcare EMR systems and MTSO workflow to the Health Story Project to participate in the data standard adoption collaboration effort.

Arrendale provides its world-wide customer base of physicians, healthcare organizations and MTSOs with a fully featured, user-friendly system for dictation, automatic speech recognition and transcription while interfacing to major healthcare information systems. The Health Story Project's Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) data standards will allow Arrendale's global customers to concentrate on the practice of healthcare, while the movement of narrative text into EMR systems is automated through Health Story Project standards. The inclusion of narrative text within EMR systems results in greater care-giver satisfaction, improved patient care, and efficiency to bolster EMR adoption even further. According to Delbert L. Arrendale, President, "This is a Win-Win-Win situation for physicians, who can continue with their dictation preference, for clinicians, who will find the narrative for patient care indexed within EMR systems and for information systems analysts at hospitals and MTSOs, whose integration tasks will be simplified with CDA protocol. Ultimately, everyone benefits as data standards contribute to efficiency and reduced healthcare costs."

Arrendale Associates supplies comprehensive medical transcription solutions via ASP arrangements and as traditionally-licensed software to their customers in the US, the UK, and India. Since 1989 Arrendale has developed and engineered healthcare software systems for dictation, workflow, speech recognition, transcription, electronic signature and document management. AAI began the A⁺Network Affiliation program in 2001 to provide integrated medical transcription outsourcing from A⁺Network MTSO partners to its healthcare customer base. Hospitals, clinics and A⁺Network Transcription MTSOs across the globe benefit from AAI's TA⁺ software platform by reducing costs and improving healthcare with secure web access to transcribed patient documents. AAI customizes its products to meet the unique needs of each client with the engineering and interfacing proficiency required by today's healthcare community. More information about Arrendale technology services and the TA⁺ platform is available at www.aaita.com and by calling (800) 344-1323.

More information on the Health Story Project is available at www.healthstoryproject.com.

