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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Hospital Launches “ePrescribing” Program

June 14, 2011...Hornell, NY... As part of its strategy to improve patient safety and move toward electronic medical records, St. James Mercy Hospital initiated an electronic prescribing (“ePrescribing”) program with its physician offices on May 24.

With ePrescribing, an authorized prescriber (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) enters a patient’s prescription into the office computer, where it is electronically transmitted to the patient’s pharmacy to be filled. This automatic transmission system eliminates the use of paper prescription orders.

The advantages of ePrescribing are many, according to Dr. Bradley Truax, Chief Medical Office at St. James Mercy Hospital. “The biggest benefit is increased patient safety and less chance for medication errors due to illegible handwriting, re-entering a prescription at the pharmacy, or blurry faxes. In addition, the system automatically alerts prescribers of potential drug interactions and allergies, before the order is transmitted,” he said.

ePrescribing is also convenient for the patient. “Patients no longer have to worry about losing or forgetting a prescription, or waiting in line to drop it off to be filled,” said Dr. Truax. “ePrescribing eliminates one trip to the pharmacy – all the patient has to do is go pick up the order when it is ready.”

The electronic transmission process is very safe, said Dr. Truax. “With ePrescribing, the patient’s information is not sent over the open Internet or via e-mail. Prescriptions are transmitted electronically through a private, secure and closed network, ensuring the greatest level of safety and privacy,” he said.

St. James Mercy’s ePrescribing program will be linked to the Rochester Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO), a secure health information exchange system that the Hospital joined in 2010. More information on the RHIO is available at www.grrhio.org.

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