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HEARD ON THE STREET

- **They're not satisfied with the workgroup's progress, and so they're leaving.** Paul Feldman, deputy director of the Health Privacy Project (HPP), said in a two-page letter to Robert Kolodner, interim director of the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), that he was resigning as co-chairman of the Confidentiality, Privacy and Security (CPS) workgroup of the American Health Information Community (AHIC). Janlori Goldman, director of HPP, said in the same ONC letter that she was also resigning from AHIC. In their letter, they wrote, "We have determined we are unable to continue given that the workgroup has not made substantial progress towards the development of comprehensive privacy and security policies that must be at the core of a nationwide health information network....To date, CPS has met six times since August, 2006 and has produced just a single — albeit useful — set of recommendations on patient identity-proofing covering three of the four 'original' use cases assigned to AHIC....Nevertheless, these recommendations and expected CPS next

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steps are a far cry from a comprehensive and timely approach that would give privacy policy equal and necessary footing with interoperability and systems development efforts." Goldman and Feldman added that "in a June 22, 2006 letter to Secretary Leavitt, the National Committee on Health and Vital Statistics urged HHS to take steps towards the development of policy for the privacy and security of personal health information on the NHIN. Sadly, most of the recommendations have not been addressed by HHS." To view the entire letter to Kolodner, [click here](#).

- **Emdeon Corp.'s stock price fell 68 cents, or more than 4%, to \$15.31 at the close of trading Feb. 23 after the company forecast lower 2007 revenue.** The company said in its fourth-quarter earnings conference call that revenue will fall this year without its business and practice services unit, reports *The Associated Press*. In November, Emdeon completed the sale of 52% of its Emdeon Business Services segment to an affiliate of General Atlantic LLC for approximately \$1.2 billion in cash (*TEHB 11/21/06*). However, the company still retains a 48% interest in the unit. The company says its fourth-quarter profit surged primarily as a result of the sale of its Emdeon Business Services unit. The firm reports net income for the 2006 period of \$346.4 million, or \$1.14 per share, compared with \$32.9 million, or 9 cents per share, during the same period a year prior. Revenue fell to \$230.1 million from \$263.8 million for the same 2005 period, according to the firm. Excluding the \$352.3 million gain related to the sale of its Emdeon Business Services segment, the company says, it earned 16 cents per share in the 2006 period. For the full year, Emdeon says, it posted a net profit of \$767.7 million, or \$2.37 per share, compared with a net profit of \$73 million, or 21 cents per share, in 2005. Revenue rose to \$1.1 billion from \$1.03 billion, according to the firm. In a research note to his clients, Friedman, Billings Ramsey analyst James Kumpel says he held a "Market Perform" rating on shares of Emdeon based on its WebMD Health Corp. unit continuing to deliver extremely strong growth, AP reports. Emdeon owns 85.6% of WebMD Health. Kumpel adds in his note, "Emdeon shares appear to be a more liquid tracking stock of WebMD." He says, "Because there are so many more Emdeon shares than WebMD share in the float, investors appear to be using

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Emdeon's stock as a more liquid means of investing in the fundamentals of WebMD," according to AP. Shares of Emdeon closed at \$15.03 on Feb. 26.

- **The National Alliance for Health Information Technology (NAHIT) says it has elected four new members to its board of directors.**

Joining the Alliance board are: Ida Androwich, Ph.D., professor and program director, health systems management at Loyola University Chicago School of Nursing; Jeffrey Hillebrand, chief operating officer, Evanston Northwestern Healthcare; Mary Beth Lang, president, Diagnostix, LLC; and Deward Watts, vice president and managing partner, Computer Sciences Corp. NAHIT is a partnership of senior executives from various health care sectors working to advance the adoption of clinical IT systems.

Health Plan Strategies for Managing the Wave of New Drugs in the 2007 Pipeline
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Join Joseph Gifford, chief medical officer at Regence Blue Shield, and Jake Nichols, Pharm.D., director of clinical affairs for the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Clinical Pharmacy Services, to find out how health plans and PBMs can prepare for 2007's twin imperatives of providing broad access to needed new drugs while controlling drug spending. www.aishealth.com/Products/cpnd_022807ENLAD.html

TODAY'S HEADLINES

1. **Microsoft to Buy Medical Search Engine**
2. **AtlantiCare Selects Wellogic to Provide HIE Infrastructure**
3. **AMICAS, NeuroLogica Sign Distribution Agreement**
4. **McKesson Acquires Practice Partner**
5. **LSU Healthcare Network Selects Allscripts EHR**
6. **Fairview Health Services Selects Eclipsys' Knowledge-Based Charting Tool**

- 7. Allscripts to Integrate More Than 60 Medical Devices in TouchWorks, HealthMatics EHRs**
- 8. Agfa Healthcare Introduces Radiology Clinical Module**
- 9. Resolution Health Introduces RxSafety Alerts**

TODAY'S NEWS STORIES

1. Microsoft to Buy Medical Search Engine

Microsoft Corp. says it has agreed to acquire Medstory Inc., a privately held company based in Foster City, Calif., that develops intelligent Web search technology specifically for health information. The acquisition represents, says Microsoft, a strategic move for it to get into the consumer health search arena and signals a long-term commitment toward the development of a broader consumer health strategy.

The company adds that Medstory employees will join the Health Solutions Group, a new division at Microsoft that will manage product development and delivery. Financial terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

For more information, visit <http://www.microsoft.com>.

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2. AtlantiCare Selects Wellogic to Provide HIE Infrastructure

Wellogic, a health care software tools company, says that AtlantiCare, an integrated health care organization serving southeast New Jersey, has selected Wellogic to provide an array of products and services to help it build a health information exchange (HIE). The exchange, says the firm, will electronically connect the health care stakeholders both within the health system and across its service area, including hospitals, community physicians, pharmacies, diagnostic-service providers, payers, unions, employers, patients and their caregivers.

The Wellogic HIE tool will give AtlantiCare's more than 400 physicians and more than 1,000 nurses and other caregivers availability of enterprisewide patient information at the point of care, according to Wellogic. It will also create an enterprisewide master entity index, a nomenclature service for the mapping of terminologies and code sets and a clinical data repository. The tool will be accompanied by patient, provider and care-management portals, Wellogic says.