AGFA *Agfa* **PRESS RELEASE**

Agfa Press Office
Septestraat 27
B – 2640 Mortsel
Belgium

Marc De Fré
Global Marcom Director
Agfa HealthCare

T +32 (0)3 444 73 19
marc.defre@agfa.com

Johan Jacobs
Corporate Press Relations
Manager Agfa-Gevaert NV

T +32 (0)3 444 80 15
johan.jacobs@agfa.com

Medius KLINIK NURTINGEN becomes first hospital in Germany to achieve EMRAM Stage 6, with ORBIS HIS

HIMSS Analytics validated hospital's long-term IT strategy

Mortsel, Belgium – 25 April 2017 – 15:00 CET

- EMRAM model assesses hospital's adoption of digitization.
- Stage 6 requires physician documentation, full CDSS and closed-loop medication administration.
- Agfa HealthCare solutions EMR, Image Management and ECM played a key role in the achievement.

Agfa HealthCare announces that ORBIS* EMR-customer medius KLINIK NÜRTINGEN, in Nürtingen, Germany, has become the first hospital in the country to be certified EMRAM Stage 6.

Fully digitized and 'paperless'
HIMSS Analytics, a subsidiary of the US Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), aims to facilitate decision making by healthcare players based on valid data. The EMRAM (Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model) is one initiative established to support this goal. It uses an 8-level model to score hospitals from 0 to 7 on their stage of IT adoption, and thus degree of digitization, based on their utilization of electronic patient records and related IT systems. The medius KLINIK NÜRTINGEN has become the first hospital in Germany to be certified EMRAM Stage 6 – thereby confirming that it has the highest IT adoption of all hospitals in Germany that are undergoing the HIMSS assessment.

"To reach EMRAM Stage 6, a healthcare facility must have in-dept digitized its processes, i.e. to work 'paperless'," explains Jörg Studzinski, Director Research and Advisory Services HIMSS Europe GmbH, HIMSS Analytics. This is a prerequisite to reach the penultimate stage. At this level, all clinical documentation from physicians, nurses and other caregivers must be available

within an IT system, and a full clinical decision support system (CDSS) implemented. "We also require closed-loop medication management, with an IT-supported closed-loop medication environment offering seamless documentation from prescription through to distribution and bedside administration," he continues. This helps ensure compliance with the "5-R" rule: right patient, right medication, right dose, right time and right route.

Seamless processes support hospital workflows

For the medius KLINIK NÜRTINGEN, seamless processes are essential to the successful management of the hospital enterprise. Management therefore considers EMRAM to be an important verification of its IT strategy. "We can check the implementation and utilization of our IT applications – including the ORBIS hospital information system (EMR), the image management system (PACS) and HYDMedia enterprise content management (ECM) system – based on the criteria sheets," Gertrud Türk-Ihli from the Division of Clinical Information Systems at the medius Kliniken, explains the reason the hospital participates in the assessment process. "The entire hospital benefits from this analysis of the IT processes. The EMRAM model focusses on workflows, especially safeguarding safety-critical functionalities. It gives us important guidance for benchmarking our progress against that of other hospitals in Germany."

"By achieving EMRAM Stage 6, medius KLINIK NÜRTINGEN has reached a level unparalleled in Germany," says Hans Vandewyngaerde, President of Agfa HealthCare EMEA Region. "We are very proud that our solutions have played a role in this success."

Using IT to improve patient and staff safety

The medius KLINIK NÜRTINGEN made considerable efforts in order to achieve EMRAM Stage 6, including completely rethinking all processes; and the work is on-going, Gertrud Türk-Ihli comments. "For us, the certification is both a confirmation and an incentive to continue optimizing our IT. Our goal is to bring all medius hospitals to this same level." The advantages are clear to hospital management: IT solutions not only support clinical processes, but also significantly contribute to improving patient and employee safety.

Closely integrating individual IT systems while maintaining the highest level of data security remains a major challenge for hospitals that are digitizing. "High quality documentation is a key focus for the medius KLINIK NÜRTINGEN, from basic care and treatment, through to specific diagnostics and therapy. Agfa HealthCare's IT solutions have a very important role to play," explains Winfried Post, General Manager and Managing Director Agfa HealthCare DACH. "By achieving EMRAM Stage 6, the medius KLINIK NÜRTINGEN demonstrates the strength of holistic systems that enable a seamless flow of data through all departments, and comprehensive information exchange. We congratulate all the people involved in this achievement, and thank them for taking us along on the journey."

Use case:
Barcode-supported medication processes for improved patient safety

An IT-supported, closed medication process is a prerequisite for achieving Stage 6. The medius KLINIK NÜRTINGEN optimized its medication preparation and distribution process with a dispenser barcode system that conforms to the EU standard (GS1) as well as software for documenting the medication administration and delivery processes. It uses both existing drug barcodes, and patient and staff barcodes.

"ORBIS HIS's integrated scanner support enables an active interpretation of the various barcodes using a shared standard," explains Gertrud Türk-Ihli. "It is critical to use standards to ensure error-free identification of materials, medication, patients and services." Marking a medication dispenser with a GSRN (Global Service Relation Number) / SRIN (Service Relation Instance Number) allows full traceability, with a single scan clearly identifying both the patient and his medication. "This approach is unique in the German health environment. By using medication barcodes that include lot and serial numbers as well as expiration dates, we can link these data to the patient, enabling batch traceability all the way to the patient-level," she explains.

Conclusion: this process offers a high added value support for medication therapy safety. The processes are followed by all nursing, pharmacy and medical services staff, enabling a high degree of liability protection.

Furthermore, the medius KLINIK NÜRTINGEN has experienced a net reduction in safety-related events.

For an image, courtesy of Agfa HealthCare, click here

*ORBIS is not available in the U.S.A. and Canada

About Agfa

The Agfa-Gevaert Group is one of the world's leading companies in imaging and information technology. Agfa develops manufactures and markets analogue and digital systems for the printing industry (Agfa Graphics), for the healthcare sector (Agfa HealthCare), and for specific industrial applications (Agfa Materials). Agfa is headquartered in Mortsel, Belgium. The company is present in 40 countries and has agents in another 100 countries around the globe.

About Agfa HealthCare

Agfa HealthCare, present in one hospital out of two, is a leading provider of eHealth & Digital Imaging solutions. Care organizations in over 100 countries rely on Agfa HealthCare to optimize their efficiency and improve patient care.

For more information on Agfa HealthCare, please visit www.agfahealthcare.com or the Agfa HealthCare Blog

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