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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HOUSTON BASED PATIENTCENTRAL TECHNOLOGIES, L.L.C. RELEASES DISASTERSYNC IN CONCERT WITH VERDASEE NAVIGATOR: CRITICAL INSIGHT TOOLS FOR MASS CASUALTY MANAGEMENT**

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#### **Illustrative Case Scenario**

*A woman of about 40 years is found unconscious in a building crushed by a hurricane. A VerdaSee RFID tag is placed on her wrist. The paramedic notes the woman's band from MyHealthArchive™, and enters the information he has plus her MyHealthArchive identification number into VerdaSee Navigator™. The data is sent by DisasterSync™ to Central Hospital where she is being transported, and the Emergency Department team begins to prepare for her arrival and sees in DisasterSync that she lives 1000 miles away, has a history of irregular heart beats and is on an anticoagulant. Knowing her history allows them to get the medications and blood products she will need when she arrives. Medical decision making is faster and more appropriate to her. Her husband in her hometown logs on to the MyHealthArchive website, and sees that she has been found and that she is going to Central Hospital. He can follow her progress as he travels to be with her. Meanwhile DisasterSync is collecting the data from the field as well as the hospitals, and creates a real time picture of how big the disaster is, where the problems are occurring in providing resources and services and what type and how many patients there are. DisasterSync not only traces the people admitted to hospitals, it tracks where the walking wounded go and other displaced people. FEMA and other authorities know in real time the scope of the disaster; hospital and EMS first responders gain perspective regarding the scope and intensity of resources required to meet the needs of communities. Later, retrospective analysis provides deep insight into what went well and what needs improvement.*

## **Disaster Management**

PatientCentral Technologies has just released DisasterSync, a revolutionary disaster management system for hospitals and healthcare systems in concert with the release by Verdasee Solutions, Inc, of the VerdaSee Navigator system for EMS first-responders. As PatientCentral's creator, Al Davies, M.D., President and CEO, has over thirty years of experience in front-line management of critically ill patients ranging from routine emergencies to major disasters such as Allison, Katrina and Rita. Dr. Davies states these technologies have been designed to "eliminate fragmentation of information and improve efficiency and coordination between hospitals, trauma centers, EMS first-responders and the public health system; all who have traditionally worked in silos that are built vertically but don't connect well horizontally with each other".

In addition to the exceptional insight that Dr. Davies brings to PatientCentral's technologies, the collective expertise of the PatientCentral team has served to meet the needs of all constituencies including hospital administrators, emergency medical personnel, regulators, government agencies, and especially, the patients who rely on safe and effective healthcare. A key feature of DisasterSync is that the course of progress of the patient from the incident site to the hospital can be monitored in real time by authorities such as local agencies and FEMA, to allow rapid response in providing personnel, equipment and supplies. Dr. Davies says, "The President himself can watch what is happening as it is happening, unfiltered, and can make his own judgments on what should be done." The data from the disaster as a whole is permanently stored and analyzed to provide insights into what happened, what worked well, what didn't, and what can be done to reduce death and destruction in future disasters.

## **How It Works**

"PatientCentral has really done its homework", states Robert Levine, M.D., Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Emergency Medicine at the University of Texas, Houston. Levine states, "In the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, there were significant problems keeping track of the location and identity of casualties. Additionally,

for some patients, coordination of care was difficult when there was limited access to prior healthcare information”. Dr. Davies points out that PatientCentral’s DisasterSync and VerdaSee’s Navigator systems work to coordinate and synchronize emergency management efforts at the local, regional, state and even national level through a centralized server accessible to those with need-to-know authorization. When the emergency management system becomes stressed to capacity during a disaster situation, PatientCentral’s high-performance tracking and tracing hardware and software, data collection, and analysis tools work to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency management systems in communities affected by disasters.

Reuben Vasquez, CEO of VerdaSee Solutions, Inc., states, “At the core of PatientCentral’s DisasterSync and Verdasee Navigator technology is passive and active radio frequency identification (RFID) technology that propels high performance tracking and tracing well beyond the capabilities of today’s most advanced bar code applications.” Mr. Vasquez describes the VerdaSee Navigator as composed of two modules: the first module is a software link between various RFID reader devices and the database where information is captured and managed; the second module is the user interface, which allows access to information via “user-friendly” screens. “Because the data collected by VerdaSee Navigator will be stored, as each patient moves through triage, treatment and transport, the accumulated data becomes an invaluable source of information for real time medical care as well as reducing the potential for human error.” says Vasquez.

Matt Davies, Director of Information Management for PatientCentral Technologies, has worked closely with Vasquez and his team and has utilized his expertise in information technology to design a system that seamlessly links first-responder and hospital information systems together. Matt Davies states, “For hospitals, the DisasterSync system provides a client interface tool which manages information collection and distribution about individual disaster victims including identity and authentication of identity, demographics, payer status, acuity level and health status, family information and disposition. DisasterSync bridges once disparate systems that collected disaster

victim information by local-level and state-level emergency medical systems and the existing hospital information technology (IT) systems in hospitals to which victims are transported. DisasterSync has the “pull” capacity to extract data from a centralized server, while simultaneously having the capacity to “push” disaster victim data into the centralized server so that there is a real-time recognition of the status of casualties, ability to plan for coordination of additional medical care, supplies and commodities, as well as ability to connect to disaster victims and their families. DisasterSync is designed to integrate with VerdaSee Navigator and is also flexible enough to interface with other types of tagging systems”.

### **Real-Time Analysis**

Valerie Purcell, RN, MBA, CPHQ, Vice President of Clinical Operations for PatientCentral Technologies has drawn upon her expertise in patient care, hospital administration, healthcare quality and risk management. Ms. Purcell states, “DisasterSync and VerdaSee Navigator have been designed to provide an interface for both real-time and retrospective analytical tools to monitor disaster performance. The capacity to analyze data at various levels is invaluable to first responders, hospitals, and all levels of the emergency management system. Data can be utilized to evaluate the effectiveness of communication and coordination of care within agencies and between agencies, assess patient demographics including costs and clinical outcomes, and can be used as a means of assessing the aftermath of a disaster. This client database for hospitals is an invaluable analytical tool for healthcare providers and external agencies for performance improvement, root cause analysis, and prospective strategic planning.” Purcell states that PatientCentral’s technology enables excellent hospital compliance with tougher Joint Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Organization (JCAHO) standards to ensure patient safety and more effective horizontal management of casualties in affected communities.

### **MyHealthArchive**

Dr. Davies added that PatientCentral is also introducing MyHealthArchive™, a healthcare data repository which allows the general public to choose to confidentially

register their health information, demographics and contact information for a nominal subscription fee as a means to make vital information available to healthcare providers in the event of terrorism or disasters. Dr. Davies states, “MyHealthArchive™ safely and securely maintains patients’ long term healthcare history across inpatient and outpatient visits and events, and also stores information regarding current prescriptions, chronic health concerns, and emergency contacts. Using those emergency contacts physicians and hospitals can assist in connecting patients and their families separated by disasters. This would have saved so much suffering in Katrina and Rita.

MyHealthArchive™ is a web-based tool that is invaluable to patients with chronic diseases for whom knowledge of prior medical treatment may mean the difference between life and death. This resource will be made available to hospitals that implement DisasterSync to improve patient safety. While MyHealthArchive makes your health information available in case of disaster, it can also be used on a day to day basis to aid in providing a single location to store your medical information for your regular healthcare needs.”

### **The Big Picture**

Summing it up, Dr. Davies states, “PatientCentral really has a handle on the big picture by providing a solution that revolutionizes flow of information in disasters but is flexible enough to be used on a routine basis for the regular work of EMS.” Dr. Davies cites the report of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) entitled “Hospital Based Emergency Care: At the Breaking Point” (<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11621.html>). “The IOM found that the capacity to manage large-scale emergency situations such as disease pandemics, naturally occurring disasters or acts of terrorism places a huge challenge on hospitals and first-responders to absorb and manage a significant surge in casualties. The IOM has defined its goals for the future of emergency care centering on coordination, regionalization and accountability to reduce vulnerabilities at multiple operational levels of the federal, state, and regional levels.

Although many efforts are underway to better organize and coordinate response systems, not enough has been done to optimize communication and synchronization of

individual patient information during the early stages of triage, treatment, and transport, hospitalization and inter-hospital transfer of disaster victims.” Dr. Davies, states, “PatientCentral has answered that call.”

PatientCentral’s DisasterSync and the VerdaSee Navigator have virtually eliminated the silos between the EMS/first-responders, hospitals, trauma centers and authorities such as FEMA. Dr. Davies concludes, “Our technology provides massive insight into management of large-scale disasters where multiple casualties must be evaluated, transported, treated and information processed; to ensure proper coordination, communication, and synchronization of local, regional and national level efforts. Our technology answers the call to improve casualty management in disasters.”

### **Availability**

DisasterSync and VerdaSee Navigator are now available nation-wide.

### **For more information: Please contact:**

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