

For Immediate Release

VisionShare® Employees Appointed to NHIN Direct Project Implementation Workgroups

MINNEAPOLIS, MN –April 14, 2010– The Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) Direct Implementation Group announced the appointment of Paul Tuten, Vice President of Business Strategy and Product Management, and Brett Peterson, Chief Architect, of Minneapolis-based VisionShare® to several workgroups for the NHIN Direct project. Tuten has been granted a seat on the User Story Workgroup while Peterson has been assigned to three groups: the Addressing, Abstract Model and Security and Trust Workgroups.

The NHIN Direct project's overall goal is to outline and implement standards and services that will allow organizations to deliver simple, direct, secure and scalable transmissions of health information over the Internet between known participants. The NHIN Direct project was initiated to support the Stage 1 meaningful use requirements outlined under the HITECH Act. The key deliverables of the project will include standards and service definitions, implementation guides, reference implementations and associated testing frameworks. The project will not run health information exchange (HIE) services.

The objective of the User Story Workgroup Tuten will participate in is to focus on providing a set of user stories based on key behaviors from NHIN participants (labs, hospitals, healthcare provider organizations, etc.) while Peterson's Security and Trust Workgroup will highlight issues relating to securing data exchange. The group will also define the key roles for digital certificates and signatures to be adopted by users of NHIN. The Addressing group will focus on defining a neutral mechanism that enables secure, organized routing of data. The Abstract Model group will review and finalize a formal abstract model that will define a common vocabulary for all workgroups to use during the project.

Of the appointment, Tuten notes, "It is exciting to be part of the NHIN Direct Implementation Group and the NHIN Direct Project. We will have a hand in recommending security protocols and other standards for the implementation of a network that will assist in reducing healthcare administrative costs while allowing information and records to be electronically exchanged between government agencies, healthcare providers, labs and others."

Both Tuten and Peterson have experience building and expanding a secure national network for healthcare information exchange and interoperability through their work at VisionShare. The company's network has been running on Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) technology, which surpasses current security standards for Internet-based healthcare information exchange. The company has used PKI along with the distribution of VisionShare Digital Certificates (electronic security keys) to enable the secure exchange of administrative and clinical transactions. Today VisionShare provides secure exchange services to thousands of healthcare organizations, healthcare technology vendors, Medicare and Medicaid payers, government agencies and others, nationwide.

When asked about how his previous PKI and architecture experience will help the NHIN Direct project, Peterson stated, "VisionShare has been using PKI technology since our inception in 2000. With thousands of locations using our Secure Exchange platform today, we have demonstrated how this type of technology can be effectively scaled for quick implementation on a national basis. We bring that understanding to the table, and the notion that, as a group, we can raise the bar on security in an efficient and cost-effective manner. We believe that a secure environment is the cornerstone for broad adoption of health information exchange. At VisionShare, we've worked under this model for ten years; it only makes sense to bring that knowledge to these workgroups, because NHIN is looking to implement similar goals with the NHIN Direct project."

More information on the NHIN Direct Project is available at <http://nhindirect.org>. More information on VisionShare can be found at www.visionshareinc.com. The company also hosts a blog, [A Meaningful Exchange](#), with commentary by Paul Tuten.

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About VisionShare

VisionShare® Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota is an eHealth connectivity leader dedicated to creating, building and managing solutions for secure healthcare information exchange. *VisionShare* Secure Exchange Platform is the nation's largest, most secure health information exchange for administrative and clinical transactions that support meaningful use. *VisionShare* also provides an access gateway to the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) and to state and community based Health Information Exchanges (HIEs).

The company's Secure Exchange platform is setting new standards for secure healthcare information exchange, using military-grade encryption that is CMS approved, HIPAA compliant, EHNAC accredited and CAQH CORE certified. *VisionShare* Secure Exchange facilitates seamless, *meaningful* exchange of any transaction type among healthcare providers, health plan payers, health information exchanges, government agencies, healthcare technology vendors and others. Learn more at www.visionshareinc.com.

About NHIN

The Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) is a set of standards, services and policies that enable secure health information exchange over the Internet. The NHIN will provide a foundation for the exchange of health IT across diverse entities, within communities and across the country, helping to achieve the goals of the HITECH Act. This critical part of the national health IT agenda will enable health information to follow the consumer, be available for clinical decision making, and support appropriate use of healthcare information beyond direct patient care so as to improve population health. More information is available on the [HHS Web site](#).

About The NHIN Direct Project

The NHIN Direct Project was initiated to explore the NHIN standards and services required to enable secure health information exchange at a more local and less complex level. The NHIN Direct Project is the set of standards, policies and services that enable simple, secure transport of health information between authorized care providers. The NHIN Direct Project enables standards-based health information exchange in support of core Stage 1 Meaningful Use measures, including communication of summary care records, referrals, discharge summaries and other clinical documents in support of continuity of care and medication reconciliation, and communication of laboratory results to providers. At the conclusion of the NHIN Direct project, there will be one nationwide exchange, consisting of the organizations that have come together in a common policy framework to implement the standards and services. For more information about the NHIN Direct project, visit www.nhindirect.org.

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