South Carolina Brings Public Health to the Point of Care with Alert Messaging and Disease Reporting

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DHEC
PROMOTE PROTECT PROSPER
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

VisualDx
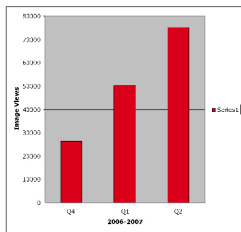visual clinical decision support software

Situation:

- Mandatory notifiable diseases are underreported despite typical department of health (DOH) efforts to remind reporting partners (ie, physicians, hospitals) by fax, e-mail, educational forums, and routine mailings

Strategy:

- Make possible a clinically valued Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) at the point of care, driving early diagnosis, recognition, and education

- Place public health alerts and links to notifiable disease reporting criteria into CDSS, available 24x7x365 to the DOH, increasing the likelihood of clinicians' reporting of and response to events of public health significance

Example: South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC)

Images viewed statewide quarterly through Q2 2007. VisualDx system usage has steadily increased from launch.
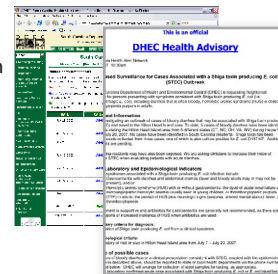
- Deployed VisualDx to 65 hospital emergency and infection control departments statewide, including Catawba Indian Nation Clinic

- Linked the South Carolina Health Alert Network messages to VisualDx home page

- Identified 70 VisualDx conditions linked to the state-specified diseases present on the annual SC List of Reportable Conditions

- Specific narrative defined conditions as either "Report Immediately by Phone" (n=43) or "Urgently Reportable Within 24 Hours by Phone" (n=26)

Alerts and reporting functions persist where clinicians are most, at the point of care
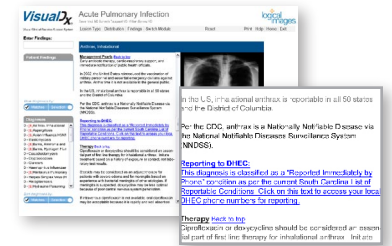
Alert notifications are displayed on the home page.

ALERT
DHEC Health Advisory - Increased Surveillance for Case Associated with Shiga Toxin Producing E. coli (STEC) Outbreak

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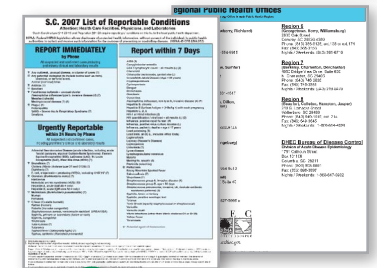
Link from the alert notification takes the user to the South Carolina Health Alert Network home page for additional clinical and epidemiological data.

DOH identifies reportable diseases and enters reporting instructions into the disease content pages of the CDSS.

Links within the disease reporting instructions take clinicians directly to the Web site, PDF, or video specified by the DOH.
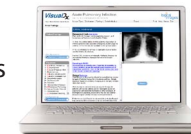
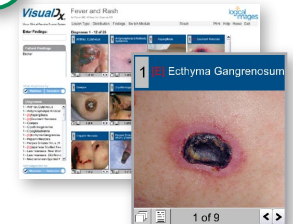Are your communications actually reaching clinicians?

Alert Notification Letter – placed in clinicians' inbox to be reviewed when there is time or sorted by office staff and likely thrown away

Fax Alert – office staff reviews incoming faxes and distributes as they deem necessary

E-mail Alerts – email checked infrequently, security settings may deny access to e-mail marked for multiple addresses

Always at the fingertips of the clinician

VisualDx is point-of-care technology designed to elevate clinical accuracy through visual recognition and identification of conditions

- Knowledge base of over 800 visually identifiable diseases represented in nearly 15,000 medical images and illustrations

- Customized interface allows DOH-specific health alerts, reporting information, and links to Web sites or other media

- Available as an Internet-based application that allows for real-time content additions and updates

Emergency or life-threatening diseases are also automatically identified in the differential diagnosis.

For more information on VisualDx, visit our Web site at www.logicalimages.com or contact us at 800.357.7611.

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