

Nicholas E. Davies Ambulatory Care Award of Excellence

HIMSS is pleased to extend the Davies Award of Excellence for 2006 to independent primary care physician practices. The purpose of this award is to recognize primary care practices that have succeeded with implementations of Electronic Health Records (EHR) in their practices and to share their approaches and lessons learned more broadly.

The Davies Award Program was originally created by CPRI-HOST in honor of Dr. Nicholas Davies, an Atlanta-based physician who was committed to improving patient care through better health information management. He was a member of the Institute of Medicine's patient record study committee. In April 1991, he was killed in a plane crash in Texas. His ideals live on through the Davies Recognition Program now managed by HIMSS. During its first eight years, the Davies Award Program focused on large health systems and issued 18 awards for exemplary efforts. In 2003, the Davies Award Program expanded to include independent primary care practices, granting three awards during the inaugural year.

Winners of the Ambulatory Care Davies Award will be invited to give their case presentation at the HIMSS Conference. The winners must also agree to participate in a "lessons learned" panel discussion at the conference and sign a copyright agreement for including the application paper in the conference proceedings.

Who Can Apply?

Any Independent practice can apply for the award. Vendors may not apply but can assist by providing information or exhibits or by sponsoring research on the value an organization achieves through the EHR implementation.

Physicians and other staff in a qualifying practice need to be incorporating the EHR into routine care and the operation of the practice. Because the Davies Award measures success in terms of the value achieved through implementation, the practice also needs to have been using the system long enough to describe—and provide evidence of—improvements in efficiency, quality, service, staff or patient satisfaction, as appropriate to the local expectations that led to the investment in the first place. This means fully implemented at all locations, and being used by all staff at least 3 to 4 months prior to submitting the application.

What Counts as an EHR?

The EHR in use must capture and manage medications, the problem list, and at least one other type of patient information (e.g., laboratory test results, notes) and provide some real-time clinical decision support such as drug checking (drug duplication, drug-drug interaction, drug-allergy checking). *This is the bare minimum functionality, and organizations with more robust EHR systems are likely to have a much more impressive story to tell about what they have achieved!*

What Is Involved in Applying?

The application is an essay, such as what you might submit for publication. The Program Committee reviews submitted applications to select finalists and winners. Submission of an application indicates acceptance of the judges' decisions. There is no appeal process. The Davies Recognition Program is not intended to be used as a platform to market your organization's EHR. The intent is to recognize excellence and share lessons learned, not to proliferate an application for financial gain. Papers are also published to highlight accomplishments and share approaches

and lessons learned. The appropriate length of the application is 10 to 15 pages. Longer submissions are discouraged. Application deadline for 2006 is April 28, 2006.

Applications should be sent electronically to Pat Wise at pwise@himss.org. Potential applicants are encouraged to call Pat Wise, Vice President, Healthcare Information Systems, HIMSS at 706-650-1482.

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Award of Excellence Recipients

2005 Nicholas E. Davies Ambulatory Care Award of Excellence

Wayne Obstetrics & Gynecology
Southeast Texas Medical Associates
Sports Medicine & Orthopedic Specialists

2004 Nicholas E. Davies Ambulatory Care Award of Excellence

Old Harding Pediatric Associates Pediatrics @ the Basin North Fulton Family Medicine
Riverpoint Pediatrics

2003 Nicholas E. Davies Ambulatory Care Award of Excellence

Cooper Pediatrics Evans Medical Group Roswell Pediatric Center