Health Sciences

Bridgepoint Health joins Tenet Computer Group and George Brown College in launching innovative emergency preparedness software

In a collaborative move to bring emergency preparedness to mobile devices, Toronto-based Bridgepoint Health has partnered with Tenet Computer Group Inc. and George Brown College (GBC) to test and implement Tenet’s emergency management software. Tenet’s PINpoint™ for BlackBerry® is an application that allows healthcare providers to rapidly disseminate information related to breaking public crises in an effort to contain and mitigate damage, injury and death.

The software was installed at Bridgepoint Health, and two successful assessment runs were performed during the summer and fall of 2010 at the hospital and at George Brown’s sophisticated School of Emergency Management simulation facilities. As a critical component of the test phase, a pandemic event simulation was developed to provide a highly realistic scenario to gauge the response of key hospital departments and administrators throughout the development stages of a crisis.

“We were very fortunate to have Bridgepoint Health on-board as a partner to help assess our solution, and George Brown’s support for the implementation, testing and pandemic simulation has been a critical component in the application’s success,” said Carlos Paz-Soldan, President of Tenet Computer Group Inc.

“This partnership provided us with the opportunity to test very real scenarios that require emergency response in a hospital setting, such as the recent H1N1 outbreak or even an event like Hurricane Katrina, helping to mitigate the risk of a crisis.”

Tenet’s PINpoint application facilitates cooperation and coordination during emergencies, by ensuring that users always have up-to-date information stored in their BlackBerry® smartphones, including critical documents and contact lists. PINpoint automatically collects information from internal or external systems, and pushes it to designated BlackBerry® smartphones. Pushed information is stored in the BlackBerry smartphones’ cache memory, thus ensuring that it will be available when users need it, even if systems are down or unreachable.

GBC’s School of Emergency Management and its Emergency Operations Centre – the only facilities of their kind in Canada – were used to simulate and test the application capabilities with Bridgepoint. Tenet’s partnership with George Brown College, which is partially funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and Government of Canada.

“GBC is committed to playing a vital role supporting innovation in the Greater Toronto Area, and this collaboration with Tenet not only benefits Bridgepoint as a key business partner, but has the potential to play a significant role in helping the community save lives and mitigate the effects of emergencies,” said Robert Luke, Assistant Vice President, Office of Applied Research and Innovation at George Brown College. “In assessing the design and utility of the application in a controlled environment, we were able to pinpoint key benefits and potential gaps to help our partners improve their ability to respond swiftly to critical situations.”

“As a healthcare provider at the forefront of issues such as the recent H1N1 outbreak, Bridgepoint has a critical role to play in helping to minimize and prevent the spread of infectious disease, and we welcome the opportunity to help assess and implement innovative technology that will help us manage this kind of risk,” said Jane Merkley, Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive, Bridgepoint Health. “With the help of Tenet and George Brown, we are bringing together the best in technology innovation, research and education in order to build a stronger, healthier community.”

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