

Arnot to get better records software

By G. Jeffrey Aaron

Arnot Ogden Medical Center was recently selected to receive \$250,000 worth of electronic medical record software as part of the Vision Recognition Grant program administered by the Misys Center for Community Health Leadership.

Arnot was selected because of the work the hospital is doing in the area of clinical community connectivity.

Under the system, for example, if a patient visits a particular Arnot-affiliated physician for treatment, the information is put into the electronic record-keeping system.

When the same patient sees another Arnot-affiliated physician, the second doctor will have access to the medical information filed by the first doctor.

"We do have a set-up where we are working to connect our physician's offices and the hospital so the system is integrated," said Arnot spokeswoman Ann Marie Caplan.

"It allows providers to access the information in order to provide the most cost-effective and safest care. We'd like to see it used universally in the health care system. It's something that's very secure and safe."

Arnot has been working with a local group that's done the groundwork in electronic record-keeping, Caplan said, and Misys provides the support software.

Electronic medical record-keeping can eliminate duplicate tests and procedures, help manage costs, coordinate care for patients and expand involvement in treatment decisions.

All of these improvements are part of Arnot's goal of providing safe, cost-effective health care to the local community, according to the hospital.

Information on whether St. Joseph's Hospital, also in Elmira, currently uses electronic record-keeping systems was not immediately available.

The Misys Center for Community Health Leadership, based in Raleigh, N.C., was created in 2006.