The Medical Society of Delaware forms partnership to improve health care pre-authorization processes using distributed ledger technology

August 7, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact (for MSD):
Mark B. Thompson, MHSA
Executive Director
302.444.6958
Mark.Thompson@medsocdel.org

Contact (for Medscient):
Vince Albanese
CEO
855-963-3724
valbanese@medscient.com

The Medical Society of Delaware (MSD) has teamed up with health care services company Medscient to develop a solution to address the challenges that prior authorization requirements pose to patients and healthcare providers. The solution will use distributed ledger technology developed by Symbiont, the State of Delaware’s technology partner in the Delaware Blockchain Initiative.

The MSD and Medscient will present a Proof of Concept of the solution at the Medicaid Enterprise Systems Conference on August 18 in Baltimore, with the long-term goal of implementing the system statewide to reduce the delays and added expense often associated with prior authorizations.

“This is truly an exciting project,” said MSD Vice President, Andrew Dahlke, MD. “The distributed ledger is a transformative technology that offers a definitive solution to the problem of pre-authorization that can benefit all parties—patients, doctors, nurses, hospitals and insurers.”

Distributed ledger technology and smart contracts will execute rules agreed upon by caregivers and insurers to automate the pre-authorization process, Dahlke explained. This should reduce the need for phone calls, faxes and lengthy turnaround times that generate added expense for providers and insurers, and that all too often delay badly-needed patient care.

“The entire health care community agrees that pre-authorization processes need improvement,” Dahlke said. “We are confident that this Proof of Concept will not only address this particular pain point, but will lay the groundwork for streamlining other health care administrative issues as well.”

The Metrics of Trust

The key to the technology is that it provides both insurers and care providers with a common data set of patient information on a distributed ledger, where it can be securely shared by all parties, explained Vince Albanese, CEO of Medscient. The data is used to create smart contracts, which become the rules used to automatically make pre-authorization decisions.

“Essentially, we are negotiating the ‘metrics of trust’ between the parties,” he explains. “We are coding agreed-upon rules of pre-authorization in smart contracts that will in turn execute decisions that all parties can agree are appropriate and correct.” The solution will provide automated prior authorization decisions more quickly, consistently and objectively, he noted.
Medscient is working with the MSD to document the current pre-authorization landscape and capturing use cases. The next step will be to model the future state of pre-authorization, to envision what an automated environment will look like and how it will impact the involved parties. “This exercise is critical to negotiate the metrics of trust and to project the success of the POC,” Albanese said.

Delaware, taking the lead on innovative healthcare solutions

The State of Delaware has staked out an early lead and selected a technology partner in the distributed ledger ecosystem, which makes it an ideal venue for the project. “There will be a lot of talk about distributed ledger solutions at the Medicare conference in August, but thanks to the vision and proactive efforts of the Medical Society of Delaware and the Delaware Blockchain Initiative, we will be able to talk about real results,” Albanese said.

“We are thrilled that the Delaware Blockchain Initiative is giving rise to a use case with real, tangible and meaningful benefits to the people of Delaware and beyond,” said Andrea Tinianow, director of Global Delaware.

About Medical Society of Delaware
The Medical Society of Delaware is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the United States and rich in history. Founded in 1776 and incorporated on February 3, 1789, The Medical Society of Delaware continues its support of physicians in their vigor and spirit to advance the profession, which was the basis for its creation. Our Mission is “To guide, serve and support Delaware Physicians, promoting the practice and profession of medicine to enhance the health of our communities.”

About Medscient
Medscient is focused on driving positive action and facilitating commerce for entities where trust fuels transactions. We believe that the distributed ledger, when applied properly, is the vehicle upon which trusted commerce can occur. We’re proudly headquartered in Delaware where once again, it’s the “first state” to take such a progressive approach.

###