



## **Quest Diagnostics' Healthcare Information Technology Subsidiary, MedPlus, Enters Into an Agreement with SureScripts to Provide Physicians With Electronic Prescribing Capabilities**

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TETERBORO, N.J., and ALEXANDRIA, Va., Feb. 25 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Quest Diagnostics Incorporated (NYSE: DGX), the nation's leading provider of diagnostic laboratory testing, information and services, announced today that the company's healthcare information technology subsidiary, MedPlus, has entered into an agreement with SureScripts to provide physicians with electronic prescribing capabilities.

SureScripts is at the forefront of a growing movement to harness technology to improve the safety and quality of prescribing by building a nationwide electronic prescribing network, SureScripts Messenger(TM) Services. Companies and software vendors representing 50 percent of the nation's retail pharmacies have completed the certification process required to connect to SureScripts Messenger Services and are at various stages of making the capability available in their pharmacies.

As part of the agreement, Quest Diagnostics' physician portal solution, called eMaxx(R), will connect to SureScripts' network, enabling physicians to transmit prescription orders and respond to prescription renewal requests electronically, minimizing time spent phoning and faxing.

eMaxx enables physicians to order diagnostic tests and review laboratory test results online; view clinical and administrative information from many sources; share confidential patient information with medical colleagues; and prescribe medication at the point-of-care, all in a manner that is consistent with the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) privacy and security requirements.

"Two-way electronic communication between physicians and pharmacies is critically important to achieving greater patient safety," said Richard A. Mahoney, president, MedPlus. "With SureScripts we're adding an important service for customers who rely on eMaxx to perform vital clinical and administrative tasks for patients."

"The fact that MedPlus recognizes the importance of connecting to pharmacies is a strong indication of physician demand to improve patient safety and modernize the prescription process," said Kevin Hutchinson, president and CEO of SureScripts. "Quest Diagnostics' customers will now have the option of electronic prescribing, which benefits physicians, pharmacists, and patients."

### About Quest Diagnostics

Quest Diagnostics Incorporated is the nation's leading provider of diagnostic testing, information and services, providing insights that enable physicians, hospitals, managed care organizations and other healthcare professionals to make decisions to improve health. The company offers patients and physicians the broadest access to diagnostic laboratory services through its national network of laboratories and patient service centers. Quest Diagnostics is the leading provider of esoteric testing, including gene-based medical testing, and empowers healthcare organizations and clinicians with advanced information technology solutions that improve practice management. Additional company information can be found on the Internet at: [www.questdiagnostics.com](http://www.questdiagnostics.com).

### About MedPlus

Quest Diagnostics' healthcare information technology subsidiary MedPlus, is a leading developer and integrator of clinical connectivity and data management solutions for healthcare organizations and clinicians. These solutions efficiently and securely collect, store, manage and retrieve clinical information within an organization, enterprise or community via virtual private networks and/or the Internet. MedPlus solutions, including ChartMaxx(R) (electronic patient record solution), eMaxx (physician-focused clinical integration portal solution) and LabPortal(TM) (lab test ordering and results retrieval solution) have been implemented in more than 300 healthcare facilities throughout North America. For more information, visit the Company's Web site at [www.medplus.com](http://www.medplus.com).

### About SureScripts

SureScripts is committed to building relationships within the healthcare community and working collaboratively with key industry stakeholders and organizations to improve the safety, efficiency and quality of healthcare by improving the overall prescribing process. At the core of this improvement effort is SureScripts Messenger(TM) Services, a healthcare infrastructure which establishes electronic communications between pharmacists and physicians and enables the two-way electronic exchange of prescription information. Today, companies and software vendors representing 50 percent of the pharmacies in the United States have completed the testing and certification process to connect to SureScripts Messenger Services and are at various stages of pharmacy and market roll-out. SureScripts Messenger Services is the first step to support true electronic prescribing in an industry still reliant on fax, phone, pen and paper. More information about SureScripts is available at [www.surescripts.com](http://www.surescripts.com).

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