

# MedSphere Applauds Senator Rockefeller's Call for Universal Adoption of Open Source Electronic Health Records

*Health Information Technology Public Utility Act of 2009 to Make Health IT More Accessible, Especially in Rural Areas*

CARLSBAD, Calif.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))-- Today, MedSphere Systems Corporation applauds West Virginia Senator John D. Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Healthcare, for introducing the Health Information Technology Public Utility Act of 2009. This landmark legislation will ensure Americans receive the best possible care when doctors and nurses are able to communicate and work together for the benefit of each individual patient.

Senator Rockefeller's legislation calls for the use of proven open source electronic health records (EHRs) to improve patient care. The bill would require the federal government to develop standards for an interoperable health IT system and create an open source electronic health records solution available to all healthcare providers at little or no cost.

"We commend Senator Rockefeller for his leadership and the creation of this historic legislation," said Michael J. Doyle, president and CEO of MedSphere. "With the proven success of open source technology used in the Department of Veteran Affairs and at independent hospitals across the country, the time is right for best practice standards to be shared rather than recreated at each hospital in America. Truly interoperable EHRs enable all doctors and care providers in a hospital to work together to ensure the best possible patient care."

West Virginia's state hospitals, Midland Memorial Hospital in Texas, Wyoming's Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County, and Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn are a few examples of hospitals that are thriving in the open source community. The clinical staff at these hospitals share best practices and improvements on OpenVista code at MedSphere.org, a healthcare open source ecosystem where users communicate and collaborate to help improve healthcare.

## About MedSphere and OpenVista

As a disruptive force in healthcare information technology, MedSphere is revolutionizing the industry by delivering commercially supported open source software based on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' proven VistA EHR. The product of 20-plus years of development and more than \$8 billion invested, VistA enabled the transformation of the VA into the nation's most efficient and clinically effective healthcare organization. Currently VistA contains roughly 2.1 billion clinical documents, 2.76 billion orders, and 1.51 billion images. As the commercialized version of VistA, MedSphere's OpenVista is a portfolio of products and professional services for hospitals, clinics and integrated delivery networks. OpenVista is currently used by over 20,000 individuals, including 2,500 physicians and contains hundreds of thousands of medical records. MedSphere addresses healthcare's capital constraints through an innovative business model:

- A unique subscription-based pricing model minimizes upfront costs.
- The Healthcare Open Source Ecosystem and MedSphere.org portal coordinate a unique grassroots community of customers/subscribers, partners and developers driving OpenVista innovation and providing a parallel development and support structure.
- MedSphere's experienced team of healthcare technology professionals and unique suite of implementation tools deliver a fluid transition to a comprehensive healthcare information technology solution.

Founded in 2002, MedSphere is backed financially by Azure Capital Partners, Thomas Weisel Venture Partners and EPIC Ventures (formerly the Wasatch Venture Fund). MedSphere clients include Midland Memorial Hospital, Midland, Texas; West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR); Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County, Rock Springs, Wyoming; Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York; and the federal government's Indian Health Service. For more information, visit <http://www.medsphere.com> and <http://www.medsphere.org>.