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PRESS RELEASE

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RHODE ISLAND QUALITY INSTITUTE PAYS FIRST READINESS ASSESSMENT SUBSIDY CHECK TO INTERNAL MEDICINE PARTNERS

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND—The Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) announced today the payment of the first readiness assessment subsidy check to Dr. Puneet Sud of Internal Medicine Partners located in North Providence, Rhode Island. Dr. Sud was awarded a check for \$1500 as a result of his selecting a readiness assessment consultant from RIQI's RI Regional Extension Center's (REC) Vendor Marketplace, completing the assessment, and then choosing an Electronic Health Record (EHR) vendor. A readiness assessment is designed to help providers move towards adoption of an EHR, improve the quality of care, and increase workflow efficiencies. In addition, the assessment is instrumental in helping to provide insights about the practice's readiness for EHR adoption and provides the vendor with the information required to make recommendations as to how to best increase the success factors for EHR adoption.



“I recognized that in order to progress and provide the best care for my patients, I needed to invest time and money to adopt EHR technology,” commented Dr. Sud. “Important patient information can now be more accurately kept and more easily shared between a patient's physicians.”

In order to help providers like Dr. Sud successfully adopt and implement EHR technology, RIQI's RI REC established a vendor marketplace of pre-qualified EHR software vendors and technical service consultants. The marketplace is an unbiased, structured way for providers to review and compare the cost and functions of products and services, and then determine which EHR software or technical consultant services are the best fit for their practice and needs.

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“High failure rates of EHR implementations nationally have been attributed to a lack of a practice’s readiness, which is why RI REC is providing a subsidy to help offset the costs incurred by a provider for this service,” commented Ken Berry, Director, REC Program Management at the Rhode Island Quality Institute. “We strongly believe that in order for a provider to successfully transition from paper-based charts to an EHR, it requires commitment from the practice, improved processes, and a willingness to commit to change.”

Through the REC Vendor Marketplace, Dr. Sud selected Quality Partners of Rhode Island to complete his readiness assessment. Quality Partners’ HIT Advisors helped identify the strengths and weaknesses of the practice to determine actions needed to successfully implement an EHR. They assessed the practice’s core competencies, including management, operational, organizational, cultural, and technology needs; and provided a detailed report of the findings to review with the practice. As a result of the work and analysis performed by Quality Partners, Dr. Sud selected an EHR software vendor from the RI REC Vendor Marketplace and has since implemented and “gone live”.

Once Dr. Sud demonstrates that he has achieved Meaningful Use Stage 1 objectives as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, he will be eligible to receive an additional \$1000 RI REC subsidy.

“It’s been hard but now I’m excited and it will definitely be worth it,” stated Sud. “This was the right time for me and I wanted to be able to benefit from available incentives.”

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About the Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI)

Founded in 2001, the Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) is a collaboration of leaders in the Rhode Island community who share the intent to substantively improve the healthcare system in the state. The collaboration includes CEOs of hospitals, health insurers, and businesses, along with leaders of consumer groups, academia, and government. RIQI’s mission is to significantly improve the quality, safety, and value of health care in Rhode Island. RIQI is the Governor-designated sole Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) for Rhode Island, chosen to coordinate the statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE). As the RHIO, RIQI is charged with bringing together health care stakeholders within the state and governing HIE among them for the purpose of improving health outcomes in the community. For more information, visit www.RIQI.org.

About Meaningful Use

Under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009, eligible health care professionals and hospitals can qualify for Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments when they adopt certified EHR technology and demonstrate its Meaningful Use to achieve specified objectives. Eligible professionals may receive as much as \$44,000 under Medicare and \$63,750 under Medicaid, and hospitals may receive millions of dollars for implementation and Meaningful Use of certified EHRs under both Medicare and Medicaid.