

## Meaningful Use of an EHR

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid has designated specific benchmarks and timelines for what it calls "Meaningful Use" of an EHR to

- Improve the quality, safety and efficiency of patient care and reduce health disparities
- Engage patients and their families in their healthcare
- Improve care coordination
- Improve population and public health
- Ensure adequate privacy and security protections for personal health information

Components of Meaningful Use are the use of certified EHR technology

- in a meaningful way (eg, for e-prescribing)
- for electronic exchange of health information to improve the quality of care, and
- to submit clinical quality reports and other measurements

Stage 1 (2011) Meaningful Use requires providers to meet 15 core criteria and 5 "menu set" criteria. (For more information, visit [www.healthit.hhs.gov](http://www.healthit.hhs.gov).)



## Partnering with the RI Regional Extension Center

- **DocEHRTalk.org** is the "home" of the RI REC. Anyone can join this online community to read the latest HIT news, case studies, profiles of our Vendor Marketplace participants, and more. Healthcare providers and practice administrators can participate in online discussions.
- **Visit [www.DocEHRTalk.org](http://www.DocEHRTalk.org) and click the red "Join now" button** on the home page. You will be asked to create a user name and password for subsequent login to the site.
- After joining our online community, **priority primary care providers** will be prompted to complete a REC enrollment form; you need to enroll to benefit from our subsidies, support, and FREE services and tools (*see inside brochure*).
- If you chose to logout of the Web site after joining, to **start the enrollment process**, login at [www.DocEHRTalk.org](http://www.DocEHRTalk.org) with your user name and password. You will be taken to a page where one option will ask if you're ready to enroll—select that option. Welcome to the REC!



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RI REGIONAL EXTENSION CENTER  
Rhode Island Quality Institute



## Rhode Island Regional Extension Center



*Advancing the adoption,  
implementation, and  
meaningful use  
of certified EHRs  
in Rhode Island  
with free services  
for priority primary care  
providers*



## EHRs, RECs and the HITECH Act

The adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) by healthcare providers is a critical first step in enhancing the quality, safety, and value of healthcare in the US.

The 2009 Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act established incentives to adopt and use EHRs in a "meaningful" way.



The HITECH Act also established 62 Regional Extension Centers (RECs) to support eligible healthcare providers in adopting, implementing and optimizing EHRs to achieve Meaningful Use objectives.

### RI REC Mission

The RI Regional Extension Center (REC) is a service of the RI Quality Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the healthcare system in RI. Our goal is to assist 1,000 priority primary care providers, with or without an existing EHR, with achieving Meaningful Use.

We recognize the challenges involved in changing from a paper-based system to an electronic one. The REC is here to make the transition as efficient and smooth as possible.

*The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that provided funding for RECs also created a federal incentives program—up to \$44,000 from Medicare or \$63,750 from Medicaid—for eligible providers who achieve Meaningful Use. To learn more, click the Funding & Incentives tab at [www.DocEHRTalk.org](http://www.DocEHRTalk.org).*

## PPCPs enroll in the REC for FREE

Enrollment in the RI REC is **free for Priority PCPs** with or without an EHR.

Priority PCPs are physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives in the following specialties:

- Adolescent Medicine
- Family medicine
- Internal medicine
- Obstetrics/ Gynecology
- Geriatrics, or
- Pediatrics



and practice at a

- Private practice with 10 or fewer providers
- Community health center
- Public hospital outpatient clinic, or a
- Setting that cares for underserved populations

### REC Vendor Marketplace

- Pre-qualified EHR software vendors and technology service consultants with online profiles
- Access to readiness assessments, practice redesign and optimization, and Meaningful Use gap analysis
- Unbiased, structured way to review and compare EHR costs, functions, and services
- Standardized contracts, discounted pricing, and vendor agreements to specific criteria related to customer service and support

## FREE Services and Benefits

As an enrolled REC Provider Member, you receive the following subsidies, FREE services, tools, and support as you work to achieve Meaningful Use:

- \$2,500 subsidy for each Priority PCP (up to 10 per practice) based on milestone achievement
- Access to our pre-qualified Vendor Marketplace
- Comprehensive and individualized support from an assigned Relationship Manager
- Objective help choosing the EHR software and services that best meet your needs
- Cost/Benefit Calculator tool to determine the actual costs and benefits of an EHR using your practice data
- Best practices to protect the privacy and security of your patients' health information
- In-person and online REC orientation and educational seminars, training, and CME opportunities
- RI REC-sponsored health IT events
- Direct access to key information and updates on health information technology, Meaningful Use, CMS rulings, attestation (reporting requirements), and federal and RI incentive payments