



Information for Healthcare Improvement  
AHIT Community Partner

**For Immediate Release**

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**AHIT Regional Extension Center Partners with FMQAI to Provide Primary Care Providers with Electronic Health Record Adoption, Education and Assistance**

**(Tampa, FL – January 18, 2011)** – Eligible primary healthcare providers throughout Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Manatee and Sarasota counties can now enroll in the Health and Human Services (HHS) Regional Extension Center (REC) program. FMQAI, an authorized outreach partner for the Center for the Advancement of Health IT (AHIT) REC, has announced open enrollment for primary healthcare providers in these counties. Providers can apply for free membership in the REC program to receive education and assistance in achieving “meaningful use” of certified electronic health records (EHRs).

Any medical provider who achieves meaningful use of certified EHRs may qualify for incentive payments up to \$44,000 per provider from Medicare or up to \$63,750 per provider from Medicaid to help overcome the financial barrier to EHR adoption. According to survey data released Jan. 13 by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, four-fifths of the nation’s hospitals and 41 percent of office-based physicians intend to take advantage of federal incentive payments for adoption and meaningful use of certified EHR technology.

Once enrolled as a member, healthcare providers may access information technology advocacy services from AHIT, a REC program operated by Community Health Centers Alliance (CHCA), a non-profit health information technology leader with over a decade of experience in implementing and supporting these technologies across health centers in Florida.

Providers that enroll may receive the following services:

- Access to prequalified, certified EHR vendors, group purchasing programs and organized provider advocacy on vendor relations
- Discounted rates on best practice guidelines and toolkits for practice/workflow redesign, EHR contracting, EHR implementation and health IT training
- Access to education for health IT and meaningful use guidelines

- Access to privacy and security best practices
- Partnering with local, state and national health information exchange
- 24x7 access to the AHIT Resource Center

The FMQAI staff will help each provider review eligibility standards and enroll. Enrollment is free for eligible providers. Non-eligible providers may join for a nominal fee. Area providers interested in enrolling can contact Diane Chronis at [RECTeam@fmqai.com](mailto:RECTeam@fmqai.com), or for more information on eligibility, visit [AdvanceHealthIT.org](http://AdvanceHealthIT.org) or [CMS.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms](http://CMS.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms).

“Providers of today need to identify and acquire health information technology tools to adapt, grow and change with the new healthcare reforms,” said Diane Chronis, project director at FMQAI. “Support and resources are available through the AHIT Regional Extension Center program, giving providers access to the information necessary to help them achieve meaningful use with their EHRs, which ultimately benefits patients and improves overall public health.”

**About FMQAI:** Since 2004, FMQAI has helped more than 300 physician practices in Florida overcome barriers to adopting and effectively using EHRs to improve patient care. Located in Tampa, FMQAI works with federal, state and private clients on health care quality improvement, medical case review, electronic data reporting and health information technology and serves as an authorized outreach partner for the AHIT REC.

**About AHIT:** AHIT has been selected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology as one of a select group of organizations throughout the U.S. designated as having the experience and capacity necessary to assist healthcare providers with the task of modernizing their practices with certified EHRs. Overall, the national HHS REC program has allocated \$677 million to establish 62 centers nationwide, linking group practices, critical access hospitals, community health centers and related healthcare organizations through sustainable programs to deploy EHRs in those settings, connect healthcare organizations and establish meaningful use functionality.

AHIT is an organization of Community Health Centers Alliance, Inc., a member-supported 501(c) (3) serving not-for-profit healthcare providers. CHCA provides members with group purchasing and information technology services that allow its providers to benefit from economies of scale and improve patient care in the communities they serve through critical healthcare information systems services and management.

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