

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2011  
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## NTREC endorsed by Southwest Physician Associates

The Irving, TX-based North Texas Regional Extension Center (NTREC) announced today it received the endorsement of the Southwest Physician Associates (SPA). SPA-endorsed companies undergo an extensive process to determine if the services provided are a benefit to Texas healthcare. NTREC's mission is to provide education and technical assistance to physicians when selecting and implementing Electronic Health Records (EHR) technology.

"SPA was very thorough in performing due diligence about the NTREC services," said Mike Alverson, executive director of NTREC. "We're honored to receive this approval. Our mission at NTREC is to improve the quality of healthcare services in the region by supporting and accelerating the use of electronic health records. This endorsement supports us in continuing to move forward in support of that mission."

Based in Dallas and with a membership of more than 1,500 physicians, SPA's focus is to offer "one-stop" credentialing services and fee-for-service master health plan agreements to its members. SPA is strictly a physician-run organization having at its helm an internal medicine physician appointed by a member-elected Board of Directors, all of whom are physicians in active practice.

"We are supportive of NTREC's goals and our endorsement is intended to promote their services to physicians in the North Texas area," said Bruce W. Landes, M.D., president of SPA. "We believe the transition to effective EHR technology is a crucial step towards improving healthcare services not only in the region, but in the United States."

NTREC was funded by an April 2010 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. NTREC assists physicians in 42 counties in implementing EHR and is governed by a six-member board. Three additional extension centers were approved for Texas covering the coastal, central and western regions.

As an incentive, SPA has offered to cover one half of the NTREC enrollment fee to the first 100 SPA members who enroll in NTREC. In addition, NTREC and SPA will co-host two educational events on Feb. 24 and April 9 for physicians to better understand the steps necessary to implement an EHR. For additional information or to learn more about EHR technology, please contact NTREC at 469-648-5140, or see the NTREC website at [www.NTREC.org](http://www.NTREC.org).

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