

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NTREC achieves 50% of enrollment goal

The Irving, TX-based North Texas Regional Extension Center (NTREC) announced today it had officially enrolled 798 providers, surpassing 50 percent of its enrollment goal. NTREC's mission is to provide education and technical assistance to promote "meaningful use" by physicians when selecting and implementing Electronic Health Records (EHR) technology.

"Our staff has worked tirelessly towards this goal," said Mike Alverson, executive director of NTREC. "We're excited to be on schedule on our mission to improve the quality of healthcare services in the region by accelerating the use of electronic health records. Change is never easy, but this is a sign North Texas healthcare providers are embracing technology for the benefit of patients."

Established by the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation, 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 North Texas counties in implementing EHR and is governed by a six-member board. Three of the board members, including the board chair, are practicing physicians appointed by the Texas Medical Association, a strong supporter of the NTREC. Three additional extension centers were approved for Texas covering the coastal, central and western regions.

"From the beginning, we set a goal of enrolling 1,498 providers," Alverson said. "We have 700 more to go, so we still have work to do. We're working towards achieving our goal in 2011. We are especially pleased with the number of providers who have successfully implemented their EHRs and are in the process of attaining meaningful use and qualifying for the EHR incentive payments."

NTREC has received the endorsement of the Southwest Physician Associates, the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, the Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals and the Patient Physician Network of Plano.

Meaningful use of EHR includes e-Prescribing, electronic exchange of health information and the use of EHR to submit clinical quality and other measures. The work of NTREC accelerates EHR implementation and attainment of meaningful use while also providing assistance with conversion to 5010 reporting standards.

For additional information or to learn more about EHR technology, please contact NTREC at 469-648-5140, or visit the NTREC website at www.NTREC.org.

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