



Quest Physician Update

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Transforming Healthcare-Together.

Dear Colleagues,

I am thrilled to share exciting news with you. Quest has been designated the Health Information Technology “Regional Extension Center” (REC) satellite office for 38 counties in central Illinois in order to assist smaller primary care practices, federally qualified health centers, and critical access hospitals with the selection and implementation of certified electronic health record systems.

Quest is part of a consortium of Illinois organizations, led by Northern Illinois University, that will establish four offices in the state as the result of a grant for \$7.5 million, spread over two years, from the Department of Health and Human Services. The REC will be headquartered in DeKalb, with satellite offices in suburban Chicago, central Illinois, and southern Illinois.

As the Regional Extension Center satellite office for central Illinois, Quest will assist small practices by:

- Helping them identify certified products that will best meet their needs;
- Connecting them with vendors to install and implement the systems;
- Assisting them in getting those systems up and running;
- Providing office work flow and redesign services to help them meet “meaningful use” standards.

The center will also help keep clinicians up to date on best practices related to issues like clinical decision support, protecting patient confidentiality, and best use of electronic health records software.

Physicians will be able to utilize the REC’s services at minimal cost. The grant money will cover 90 percent of the expense. The REC will work primarily with priority care providers - family practitioners, doctors of internal medicine, pediatricians, and obstetricians who serve Medicare /Medicaid patients and other underserved populations.

The counties covered in the central Illinois REC region include: Adams, Brown, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Coles, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Iroquois, Knox, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Menard, Mercer, Morgan, Moultrie, Peoria, Piatt, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, Stark, Tazewell, Vermillion, Warren, and Woodford.

Quest has the expertise to provide on-site technical assistance, implementation-related project management, and work flow redesign services to practices.

Quality Quest will begin operation as the central Illinois Regional Extension Center satellite office in March and will work with about 200 providers over two years. For more information about the REC, visit our website at www.qualityquest.org or call 309-282-8820.

Respectfully,