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GUEST ARTICLE

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Federally Subsidized Electronic Health Records Assistance for West Texas Practitioners

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The West Texas Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (WTxHITREC), a program of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, has been federally funded to provide services to West Texas priority primary care providers (PPCPs) in selecting, implementing, and achieving meaningful use of certified electronic health record (EHR) products. WTxHITREC continues to actively educate, recruit, and serve providers, throughout the 108 western counties of Texas, to provide knowledge and expertise focused on EHR implementation. Providers in Texas have already begun to receive their EHR incentive checks, from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the WTxHITREC has the capability to assist providers in the capture of this payment.

Who Is Eligible for WTxHITREC Services?

- PPCP's – Physicians (Internal Medicine, Family Practice, OB/GYN, Pediatrics) and other healthcare professionals (PA, NP, Nurse Midwife) with prescribing privileges in the following settings:
 - Small group practices (10 or fewer providers)
 - Rural and critical access hospitals
 - Community and rural health centers that primarily serve the uninsured, underinsured, and medically underserved

Why WTxHITREC?

- Federal subsidies lower the cost of services to \$300 per year for eligible physicians
- Physician centric and will provide on-site services
- WTxHITREC services are customized to fit your practice and include:
 - Initial practice assessment
 - EHR vendor evaluation/selection
 - Practice workflow analysis and process redesign
 - Implementation and post-implementation review
 - Meaningful use gap analysis
 - Assisting practices in meeting requirements to help secure CMS incentive payments
 - Partnering with state and national health information exchange

EHR Incentive Program

- Physicians and eligible professionals who use a certified EHR system in a "meaningful way" can qualify to receive

incentive payments.

- Physicians can qualify for up to \$44,000 under the Medicare incentive option (five-year period).
- Physicians can qualify for up to \$63,750 under the Medicaid incentive option (six-year period).

Value in WTxHITREC Membership

- Low cost federally subsidized consulting services for successful EHR adoption and implementation
- Improve patient safety and quality of care
- Up-to-date EHR incentive program information
- Assistance in navigating the EHR vendor product
- Proven methodologies for EHR implementation
- Navigate the incentive process to help secure payment
- Access to the collective intelligence of Regional Extension Centers across the country
- Prepare for future pay for performance programs

Why an EHR?

The main goal of an EHR is better health care. EHRs help physicians provide higher quality and safer care for patients and create tangible enhancements for your practice. EHRs allow you to **have more information at the point of care, and increase office efficiency.** *Other benefits include:*

- Interface with labs, registries, other electronic health records and health information exchanges
- Legible, complete documentation that facilitates accurate coding and billing
- Enhanced decision support with clinical alerts, reminders, and updated medical information
- Performance-improving tools and real-time quality reporting

For more information and to become a member of the WTxHITREC, please contact Carson Scott at 806-743-7960 ext. 356 at carson.scott@ttuhsc.edu or visit www.wtxhitrec.org

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