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CLIENT ADVISORY

Statewide Electronic Health Records Systems Assistance to Individual and Small Group Primary Care Practices and Others Medically Underserved Populations

Virginia's Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (HITREC) is seeking primary care practices interested in receiving assistance in procuring electronic health records systems (EHR) as part of its federal grant application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. HITREC has applied for federal funding to establish a help center to assist participating practices in procuring EHR systems by offering expert technical assistance to select, implement, and support certified EHRs. The proposed center will assist with vendor selection and volume discounts and educating on effective strategies and practices for maximizing EHR use.

All practitioners interested in participating need to submit the attached commitment form by October 28, 2009 to the Virginia Health Quality Center via fax at (804) 289-5324 or e-mail to extensioncenter@vhqc.org.

Primary care practitioners who qualify for this program are any licensed doctors of medicine or osteopathy in family practice, obstetrics or gynecology, general internal or pediatric medicine, as well as physician assistants and nurse practitioners in these specialties. The practitioners also must treat patients in any of the following settings:

- Individual and small group practices (fewer than 10) that are primarily focused on primary care
- Outpatient clinics associated with public and non-profit Critical Access Hospitals
- Community Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics
- Other settings that predominantly serve uninsured, underinsured and medically underserved populations

HITREC will not fund software or hardware. However, it will offer participants discounts on EHR systems through group purchasing arrangements, and provide a range of consulting services. Practices that indicate their interest and intent quickly, will receive discount support services with HITREC.

Additional information is available from the Virginia Health Quality Center at extensioncenter@vhqc.org.

Please let Mellette PC know if you have any questions or if we can assist you further.