



Contact:
Lynn Maples
Communications Project Coordinator
901.273.2614 or lmaples@qsource.org

QSource, TPCA Announce Partnership Agreement

TPCA members receive 10 percent discount on participation fees

NASHVILLE — QSource and the Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA) have partnered to accelerate EHR adoption among TPCA members. As of Nov. 1, TPCA members seeking to implement an electronic health record (EHR) or achieve meaningful use qualify for a 10 percent discount on tnREC participation fees.

tnREC, a division of QSource, charges a nominal participation fee for the services it provides. As the Regional Extension Center (REC) for Tennessee, tnREC provides physician practices with technical assistance and guidance to support and accelerate implementing EHRs to achieve meaningful use.

As a result, providers may be eligible for incentive payments or reimbursements of up to \$44,000 to \$63,750 from either Medicare or TennCare to offset the costs associated with implementing an EHR. Incentive payments begin in 2011 and end in 2016.

“Community health centers exemplify the types of providers we believe can most benefit from tnREC services. By working with TPCA to partially offset the tnREC participation fees, we anticipate assisting all community health centers to fully realize the potential of electronic health records. We believe that this investment in support will lead to the best possible care for Tennesseans in medical need,” said Jennifer McAnally, tnREC Director.

Fees for tnREC services vary from \$2,000 to \$9,200 depending upon the number of providers at a practice site and whether a practice does or does not have an EHR. Some fees associated with receiving tnREC services may be offset through negotiated vendor contracts, federal and state grants and loans.

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tnREC services are designed to assist TPCA members to:

- Determine eligibility for health information technology (HIT) incentive programs
- Select the most cost-effective EHR for the practice
- Plan a successful EHR implementation
- Enhance administrative and clinical workflows
- Assess and meet training needs for practice staff
- Achieve meaningful use of HIT
- Maximize HIT incentive payments
- Connect for Health Information Exchange
- Improve the value and quality of patient care

tnREC offers services statewide, allowing easy access to TPCA members anywhere in the state and at any stage of the implementation process.

“Community health centers strive to be at the forefront of health care technology like electronic health records,” said Kathy Wood-Dobbins, CEO for the Tennessee Primary Care Association. “The Association is working to help all of our health center members implement EHR and maximize the assistance available from partners like tnREC.”

The 10 percent discount is available to TPCA members until Aug. 31, 2011. If interested in tnREC services, please visit www.tnrec.org or email at info@tnrec.org.