



North Carolina Regional Extension Center

On-site EHR assistance for your practice

Let AHEC help you achieve meaningful use of your EHR

Get started today:

www.ahecqualitysource.com

Each provider in your practice may be eligible for up to \$44,000 and more!

Incentives are time-limited.

Whether you are searching for a new EHR or a way to meet meaningful use requirements with your current EHR, we can help.

There is no charge to your practice although federal funding for this service is time-limited.



The mission of the North Carolina AHEC Program is to meet the state's health and health workforce needs by providing

educational programs in partnership with academic institutions, health care agencies, and other organizations committed to improving the health of the people of North Carolina.

As a federally-designated "Regional Extension Center (REC)," the North Carolina Area Health Education Centers Program (NC AHEC), provides individualized, on-site electronic health record (EHR) consulting tailored to your practice's specific needs at no charge to you.

Consultants from your AHEC can help you:

- Prepare your practice for an EHR by assessing and redesigning your office systems.
- Evaluate and select a certified EHR that offers the best value for your practice.
- Identify and enhance workflows in your practice.
- Successfully implement a certified EHR.
- Achieve state and federal standards to qualify for "meaningful use" of EHR incentive payments.
- Use your EHR as a tool to help improve care and satisfaction for you, your patients and staff.

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) within the Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal entity working to improve health care quality, safety and efficiency through the promotion of Health Information Technology and electronic health information exchange. ONC established and oversees the HIT Extension Program, which sponsors the Regional Extension Centers.



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Health Information Technology and Meaningful Use

Meaningful Use

Federal standards for “meaningful use” of Electronic Health Records (EHR) provide guidance for practices that want to use their EHR to improve clinical care, reduce dangerous medical errors and control health care costs.

Providers can earn up to \$44,000 in federal incentives by properly implementing and demonstrating “meaningful use” of a certified EHR. Maximum incentives are available to providers who meet meaningful use standards by 2011. Providers not meeting “meaningful use” standards by 2015 will be reimbursed by Medicare at a lower rate.

If you already have an EHR, let AHEC help you achieve “meaningful use” incentive payments.

NC REC Partners

- Community Care of NC
- The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence
- The North Carolina Medical Society Foundation
- The Institute for Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill
- In partnership with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)

Southern Regional AHEC - Regional Extension Center
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What to expect from the Regional Extension Center (REC)

In eligible practices, an AHEC Consultant with EHR expertise is assigned to your practice. Through all steps of EHR preparation, selection and implementation, your AHEC Consultant, at no charge to your practice, works onsite to:

- Assess your practice’s EHR needs.
- Explore how different EHR systems and features may affect your practice so you better understand implications of selecting an EHR and system features.
- Prepare for the transition to electronic records by helping you evaluate your practice’s current workflows and adapting them as needed.
- Evaluate and select the certified EHR system that meet your practice’s needs and are equipped to help your practice meet requirements of EHR “meaningful use.”
- Understand the vendor’s requirements for implementing the system you select.
- Establish and follow an EHR implementation plan to help you meet your target “go live” date, avoid common challenges and minimize disruptions.
- Set reasonable expectations for your practice and your staff as you transition to your EHR system.
- Evaluate and adjust new processes in your practice following implementation of your EHR system.
- Analyze your practice’s readiness to apply for HITECH Act “Meaningful Use” Incentive Payments.

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