



For Immediate Release
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**Fed awards OCHIN \$13.2 million for Oregon Health Information Technology
Regional Extension Center Program**
Medical providers to receive help implementing Electronic Health Records

Portland, Oregon - OCHIN, Inc. recently secured \$13.2 million in federal stimulus funding to help over 3,000 Oregon primary care providers install and use Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems to improve the quality and reduce the cost of patient services.

As Oregon's Regional Extension Center, OCHIN will work collaboratively with stakeholders throughout the state to provide and coordinate technical assistance and field support services to ensure that providers meet the federal definition for "meaningful use" of their EHR system - required to receive up to \$64,000 in federal incentives per provider.

To achieve its goals, the center will leverage the proven abilities of its two lead partners - OCHIN, the lead applicant, and the Oregon Health & Sciences University, the foundational partner. The center will also benefit from the combined experience of several independent provider associations, rural research networks, academic institutions, and technical partners.

Oregon's long-term vision for the center is to use HIT as a catalyst to transform the delivery of primary care services to benefit patients across the state.

The center will capitalize on Oregon's sophisticated institutional knowledge of EHR implementation to accelerate the rate at which non-adopted providers come online and achieve "meaningful use".

In addition to bringing EHR technologies to these providers, the center will participate in the development of interoperable health IT and Health Information Exchange (HIE) systems and services to provide clinicians, health systems, and policy-makers the information pivotal to advancing the state of Oregon's healthcare systems and infrastructure.

The center will also collaborate closely with universities and community colleges to develop workforce-training programs designed to prepare more Oregonians for careers in this high growth sector of our economy.

The key measures of success over the next four years are:

- More primary care providers in small clinics migrating from paper to electronic charts, supporting software tool and learning to use them effectively to improve patient care
- Primary care providers already using EHR systems meeting the Fed's definition of meaningful use of their EHRs
- The delivery of primary healthcare is transformed and patient care is improved

"The Fed's financial support of EHRs for primary care providers and the center as a statewide resource is a triple-win for providers, their patients and our state. We are ready to get to work," said Abby Sears, OCHIN's CEO.

OCHIN is planning an open house to share additional information about the technology center. Details will be posted on www.ochin.org.

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