

## The PaperFree Florida Collaborative Regional Extension Center

- The University of South Florida, in collaboration with statewide and community public and private partners, is creating the “**PaperFree Florida Collaborative Regional Extension Center**” (PaperFree Florida). PaperFree Florida will effectively and sustainably implement electronic health records (EHR) in more than 1,000 priority clinical practices and measurably demonstrate meaningful use to improve quality, value, safety and access. We will recruit, train and deploy e-health ambassadors as HIT extension agents in 20 counties with stakeholders consisting of:
  - The University of South Florida, USF Health (Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, USF Medical Group); The Rural Health Partnership of North Central Florida; Well Florida Council; The Heartland Rural Health Network; Healthy Ocala; The Florida Academy of Family Physicians; The Florida Medical Association; The Florida Osteopathic Medical Association; The Florida Association of Community Health Centers; The Florida Council of Mental Health Centers; The Tampa Bay Regional Health Information Organization; Workforce Florida; The Watson Clinic
- Our focus is on: Federally designated manpower shortage areas; collaboration with Federally Qualified Health Centers and Area Health Education Councils; access, quality and outcome issues affecting veterans and their families and the elderly.
- We will provide technical assistance to achieve meaningful use and interoperability among practice sites that are either contemplating EHR adoption or that have acquired EHR technology but have neither fully nor successfully implemented or used it.
- We have implemented outreach and education programs for wide and rapid dissemination, including webinars, YouTube information videos, seminars, and CD/DVD demonstrations.
- We will effectively implement appropriate EHR technology through: group purchasing arrangements; on-site workflow assessment and re-design; implementation and ongoing technical assistance provided by PaperFree and vendor-guaranteed services; assurances of compliance with state and federal confidentiality, security and privacy laws; creation of relevant, meaningful interoperability to promote quality, continuity of care and cost effectiveness.

The first two years of the project will focus on education and outreach in coordination with our community partners; recruitment and training of Electronic-Health Ambassadors, responsible for scheduling and deployment of implementation assessments, workflow studies and EHR selection technical assistance; implementation of EHR systems for at least 1,000 priority, primary care clinicians; and finally establishing the predicates for financial sustainability, meaningful use and interoperability.

The second two years of the project will focus on facilitating appropriate and meaningful use of EHR technology where it has been implemented; facilitating practice based troubleshooting and coordinating vendor service and technical assistance; implementing interoperability with and through the TBRHIO with the express intention of acquiring and using de-identified data to perform outcome assessments, quality improvement analyses, cost/value studies, patient and provider satisfaction.

A significant focus of this project will be on the growing needs of the more than 30 percent returning veterans and their families, and on the large number of persons 65 years of age and older who reside in rural communities. These populations will benefit substantially when their clinical providers gain access to shared clinical data to improve the quality and continuity of care and services they seek.

Participating clinical practices will be expected pay a modest monthly fee associated with the acquisition and use of electronic health information technology. This will contribute toward the support of the second two years of project support.

The second two years of the project will consist of technical assistance, follow up and on-site refinement of the clinical practice needs, and efforts to link them to the Tampa Bay RHIO interoperability capabilities in collaboration with regional hospitals and others.

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