



## **PaperFree Florida**

### *Economic and Quality Care Benefits*

- **Nearly \$6M in Federal Stimulus Funding** -- U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor announces \$5.9 M awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to USF Health for the PaperFree Florida initiative.
- **Expanded Service Area** -- PaperFree Florida takes the lessons learned from the pilot initiative PaperFree Tampa Bay (launched Spring 2009) and expands the project to 20 counties – Hamilton, Suwannee, Columbia, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Hardee, Desoto, Highlands, and parts of Polk.
- **Improving on PaperFree Tampa Bay pilot** – USF will hire, train and deploy people to facilitate the adoption and meaningful use of electronic health records in primary care physician offices in the 20-county service area. While software and hardware may change with advances in technology, these “e-ambassadors” will remain a constant and reassuring resource, available for troubleshooting and helping physicians tap into the full potential of electronic health records to improve healthcare access, safety and quality and to reduce costs.
- **Leading a New Knowledge Economy** – PaperFree Florida will create a whole new job class combining Information Technology and Health, which will grow in the future. This makes USF Health a leader in the new knowledge economy emerging from the recession.
- **100 New Professional Jobs** – USF Health will train 100 people, all of whom will enter the Florida workforce as this new type of professional over the four years of the project.
- **Meeting a Growing Demand** – This new health information technology profession will grow because the demand and need for quality and safety in health care is consumer-driven and national in scope. Quite simply, care based on electronic health records is safer, higher quality and more patient centered.
- **Nationally-Prominent Research** – USF Health researchers earned more than \$200 million in research awards in 2009, employing 665 faculty and graduating 861 new professionals. In addition to the new PaperFree Florida award, USF Health researchers also received 21 federal research awards under ARRA, totaling \$4.2 M.

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*Congresswoman Kathy Castor has championed safe and effective health care reform, including initiatives to modernize electronic health records and efforts that create jobs in our region.*

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*USF Health opened two major outpatient facilities using electronic health records as the basis for safe and effective care. USF Health CEO Stephen Klasko, MD, MBA, has been a national leader in calling for the use of technology to hasten advances in patient-centered, evidence-based, safe health care. He first proposed the PaperFree idea in 2009. USF has a long history of innovations in patient safety improvement, including its designation as a national center for patient safety, research and education by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in 2003.*

