



Electronic Medical Records Project

Since 2004, *HealthInsight*, the quality improvement organization for Nevada and Utah, has helped over 200 physician practices overcome barriers to adopting and effectively using electronic medical records (EMR) in order to improve patient care. This assistance was first made available at no cost to adult primary care providers in Nevada and Utah through funding from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The Utah Medical Association (UMA) extended *HealthInsight's* free EMR adoption consulting services to additional practices through a generous grant from their foundation in April 2007. The State of Utah provided additional funding since July 2007, and has recently extended the project for July 2008 to June 2009 for *HealthInsight* to continue assisting primary care practices (including OB/GYN and Pediatrics) that serve Utah's Medicaid population.

19 practices from the 2007-2008 funding year adopted an EMR. Over 25 practices in Utah that are considering EMR adoption are currently enrolled in the 2008-2009 project.

As part of this UMA/UDOH EMR project, the *HealthInsight* HIT (health information technology) team will help physician offices plan for, choose, and adopt EMR systems. After an initial readiness assessment of clinic needs and goals, HIT team members will offer a variety of services including:

- Workflow analysis to analyze and improve current work processes and pinpoint areas that can be simplified once the practice adopts an EMR
- Selection tools to help narrow vendor choices and facilitate clinic directed vendor demonstrations, based on each clinic's goals and needs
- Referrals for site visits and phone calls to clinics that already have EMR systems
- Tools and consultant references for contract negotiation assistance

HealthInsight, the UMA, and the Utah Department of Health hope that practices taking advantage of these free consultation services will overcome the many barriers to successful adoption of an EMR system and that the use of these systems will improve care provided to the population of Utah.

For more information: contact Gary Berg at 801-892-6675, gberg@healthinsight.org or see http://www.healthinsight.org/hcp/doqit/phy_practice.html

About HealthInsight

HealthInsight is a private, non-profit quality improvement organization (QIO) whose mission is to catalyze the transformation and improvement of the health care system. In our thirty-year history, HealthInsight staff has worked with the health care community on initiatives to improve the quality of care delivered in Nevada and Utah. In doing so, we have become a trusted and neutral facilitator of health care improvement.

