



# Are you a Champion?

Would you like to join an exclusive group of champions? **HITArkansas** is looking for local and regional health care clinicians who have adopted an EHR system and would like to serve as local leaders, advisors and role models in the move towards an electronically-enabled health care system.

If you are interested and you:

- Have made the transition to paperless systems
- Have had success using EHRs in patient care
- Are experienced with data exchange (e.g. e-prescribing, lab reports)
- Are willing to share experiences, help peers and educate patients on EHRs

This is part of a national movement called the **Meaningful Use Vanguard** (MUV program). Arizona and North Carolina RECs have already identified providers who are leading the way to meaningful use!

**If you have any questions, please contact HITArkansas.**

## HITArkansas

Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center  
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Little Rock, AR 72201

# The Newsletter

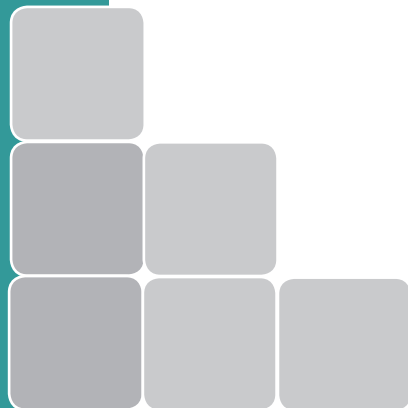
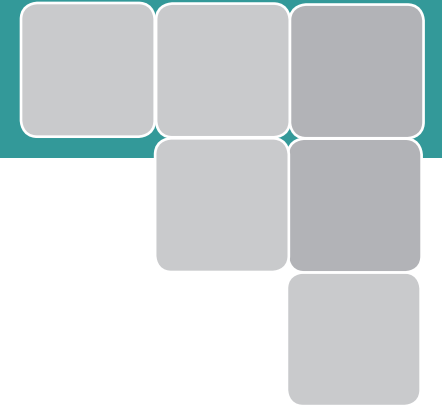
Fall 2010

## HITArkansas

Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center  
[www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com)



**Bringing you the latest news and information on electronic health records and health information technology**

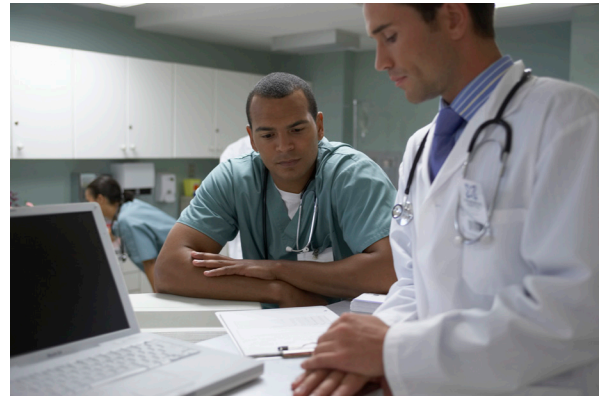


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## HITArkansas awarded expansion grant for CAHs and rural hospitals

Nearly \$20 million has been awarded nationwide to provide technical support assistance to help critical access (CAH) and rural hospital facilities convert from paper-based medical records to certified electronic health records (EHRs).

**HITArkansas** is one of 46 supplemental grant recipients. As the Regional Extension Center for our state, **HITArkansas** is charged with assisting 35 CAHs and rural hospitals in Arkansas.

Under the grant, **HITArkansas** will provide resources, assistance and ongoing support in order to help CAHs and rural hospitals successfully utilize EHRs and achieve meaningful use. This will include assistance with workflow evaluation and the development of activities to improve the quality of patient care and to report quality parameters to achieve meaningful use. **HITArkansas** will also assess CAHs and rural hospitals to identify HIT skill levels, readiness and the need for technology training to facilitate rapid EHR adoption that meets federal requirements.

For more information, please visit [www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com) or contact [hitarkansas@afmc.org](mailto:hitarkansas@afmc.org).

## On-site visits are underway

During the past few weeks, more than 650 Arkansas providers have been visited. To ensure we visit you too, go to [www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com) and click on the “Apply” tab at the

top of the page. This will allow you to complete a pre-application, which will supply us with the information we need for an initial visit. Remember, pre-application and an initial visit from us are both complimentary.

## EHR certification update

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has announced three authorized testing and certification bodies (ATCBs) who will test and certify EHRs. Certification will provide assurance to purchasers and other users that an EHR system and relevant technology offer the necessary capability and security to meet meaningful use criteria.

The following organizations have been selected:

- Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) – Chicago, IL
- Drummond Group, Inc. (DGI) – Austin, TX
- InfoGard Laboratories, Inc. – San Luis Obispo, CA

Announcement of these ATCBs means that EHR vendors can now begin to have their products certified as meeting criteria to support meaningful use. “This is a crucial step because it ensures that certified EHR products will be available to support the achievement of the required meaningful use objectives, that these products will be aligned with one another on key standards, and that doctors and hospitals can invest with confidence in these certified systems,” said David Blumenthal, M.D., national coordinator for health information technology.

As of October 25, over 50 EHR vendors have received certification. For a complete list of certified EHR systems and modules, visit: [onc-chpl.force.com/ehrcert](http://onc-chpl.force.com/ehrcert) or [www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com).

## FYI: Specialists

**HITArkansas** has been charged with providing technical assistance to primary care physicians, CAHs and rural hospitals. However, specialists who install or upgrade their medical records to certified EHR systems and achieve meaningful use are also eligible for federal incentive payments. We can help specialists reach this point. **HITArkansas** is pleased to work with specialists to provide start-to-finish services and assistance with EHR implementation and achievement and attestation of meaningful

use. Specialists can contact **HITArkansas** for pricing parameters at any time.

## Professional certifications now available

**HITArkansas** has partnered with Health IT Certification, LLC, to offer CPEHR, CPHIT and CPHIE professional certifications at a dramatically reduced price. This opportunity is for Arkansas residents who meet the following qualifications: signed provider service agreement with **HITArkansas**; proof of active student/intern/resident status at a medical school or in a health care program at a two or four year institution; or proof of employment at an Arkansas hospital.

**HITArkansas** has a limited number of licenses available at the reduced price, so contact us if you are interested or would like to learn more.

## Seminar wrap-up

During August and September, **HITArkansas** conducted seminars in five locations around the state: Texarkana, Rogers, Little Rock, Jonesboro and El Dorado. These educational seminars focused on the primary role of the Regional Extension Center, the latest updates on EHR vendor certification, how HIT affects HIPAA and the specifics of meaningful use.

Approximately 450 physicians and staff members attended these seminars, and the reviews were excellent! One attendee commented, “The information was well organized and easy to understand, and the presenters were very knowledgeable.” Another attendee said, “I have a better understanding of how to participate in the incentive program. Nice to know we have the REC to help us through this process.”

**HITArkansas** will offer more educational seminars in the future. To receive emails about upcoming events, please click on “Join our E-newsletter mailing list” on [www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com).

## The Health IT Workforce Development Program

To help meet the growing demand for health IT professionals, the ONC has awarded \$84 million in funding for the Health IT Workforce Development Program,

which consists of four key initiatives to support training and certification of skilled workers:

- Development of high-quality educational materials
- Community college non-degree training programs
- A competency exam program to evaluate trainee knowledge and skills
- University-based training programs for highly specialized health IT roles

## Community colleges use new health IT curriculum

One initiative of the Health IT Workforce Development Program is the Curriculum Development Centers Program. Its purpose is to fund institutions of higher education to support the development of health IT curricula.

Participating community colleges are now using the health IT curriculum developed by the Curriculum Development Centers. There are currently 84 community colleges which are committed to training 10,500 community college students in health IT each year. Health IT classes have already started in most of these community colleges, and in just six months or less, these students can be ready for jobs helping physicians adopt and use EHRs.

## Classes in Arkansas

Health IT classes are now being offered at the National Park Community College at Hot Springs. This non-degree program can be completed through distance learning at the student’s own pace, in as little as six months’ time. NPCC is currently offering training, as developed by the Curriculum Development Centers Program, in three HIT workforce roles: Practice Workflow / Information Management Redesign Specialist, Clinician / Practitioner Consultant, and Trainer. You can find details about NPCC’s program, schedules and contact information on their website, [www.npcc.edu/community/healthIT.htm](http://www.npcc.edu/community/healthIT.htm).

