

Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative extends electronic health records pilot program

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Contact:

JB Sweeney
Communications Specialist
Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative (MAeHC)
781.434.7063 office
978.399.4001 cell
jsweeney@maehc.org

If you do not wish to receive future press releases from the Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative, please [click here](#).

Boston – The Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative (MAeHC) announces the extension of their electronic health record (EHR) pilot program. Thanks to efficient project management, funds remain from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts grant originally intended to finance the pilot through June 2008. Using the surplus, MAeHC is offering the participating medical practices the option to continue with certain aspects of the pilot until the end of the year, most notably participation in the health information exchange (HIE).

The extension of the pilot benefits both the practices as well as the pilot initiative itself. “We are extending the program at a critical juncture for the pilot practices,” reports MAeHC President and CEO Micky Tripathi. “These technologies are difficult to get up and running, and it takes time for physicians to fully incorporate these new functions into their day-to-day care processes. With six additional months of support, we expect to see increased utilization and adoption of both the EHRs and the HIE which, in the end, will lead to higher-value care for the citizens of Brockton, Newburyport, and North Adams.”

130 medical practices in 3 communities (Brockton, Newburyport, and North Adams) are involved in the MAeHC pilot project. 417 of the 435 participating physicians are live on EHRs. HIEs are being rolled out in Brockton and Newburyport, while the North Adams HIE has been live for almost a year. In a recent survey conducted by MAeHC, 86 percent of clinicians reported that they expect to be able to provide higher quality care with the EHRs.

MAeHC hopes that all pilot practices will take advantage of the opportunity to extend their participation. “Those who do,” says Tripathi, “will continue to be part of a groundbreaking pilot program that is helping to pave the way for nationwide adoption of EHRs.”

*The **Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative** was formed in 2004 as an initiative of the physician community to bring together the state's major health care stakeholders for the purpose of establishing an EHR system that would enhance the quality, efficiency, and safety of care in Massachusetts. MAeHC endeavors to transform the delivery of health care using electronic health records and health information exchange. In partnership with its three pilot communities and thirty-four member organizations, MAeHC is fostering rapid widespread adoption of these systems to enhance the quality, efficiency, and safety of health care in Massachusetts. To learn more about the Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative, please visit www.maehc.org.*

###