



Media Contact: Stephanie Baron

Phone 313-967-1039

Press Release
October 18, 2010

Wayne County joins M-CEITA to Rollout Electronic Medical Records System to Wayne County Healthcare Providers

Wayne County, MI - Wayne County has partnered with the Michigan Center for Effective IT Adoption (M-CEITA) to enhance the electronification of health-care delivery in the community by expanding use of Electronic Health Records among County providers.

The enhanced system will improve overall health and the quality of health-care delivery in Wayne County, officials said.

M-CEITA is the state's federally-designated Health IT Regional Extension Center, dedicated to assisting providers throughout the entire adoption process of HIT to ensure "meaningful use" to improve the quality of care delivered to their patients.

"Health-care delivery and cost are major drivers in Wayne County economic growth," said Edith Killins, director of the county Department of Health and Human Services. "By implementing this Electronic Medical Records now, Wayne County is aligned with federal requirements ahead of schedule!"

This partnership with M-CEITA also will benefit the underserved and vulnerable population whose main source of health care is the safety net and priority primary care providers across Wayne County. With more providers using Health Information Technology (HIT) and real-time exchange of clinical data with patient's authorization, the picture will be complete for patients visiting free clinics, emergency rooms or any of the community health centers and mental health providers.

In collaboration with Health Choice of Wayne County, the county's Health and Technology departments have launched the Countywide Health Information Technology initiative that will connect all points of health-care delivery across the county. Health Choice has more than 500 participating physicians.

The first phase of this initiative was implemented at the Wayne County Jail Health system as one of the first correctional facilities in Michigan to utilize HIT technology in managing inmates' health records.

"Ultimately the goal is to create a countywide health-care information network that can be expanded statewide" said Mouhanad Hammami, MD, Chief of Health Operations for the county Health and Human Services. Enhancing adoption of HIT and enabling a structured exchange of clinical information for all County residents will "eliminate disparities in treatment, improve health-care delivery and minimize redundancies," Hammami said.

"Gearing this as a patient-centric approach to health care will put patients in the driving seat of managing their health records and treatment options." Added Tahir Kazmi, Wayne County Chief Information Officer: "Our goal is to simplify the implementation process and focus on the collaboration and cooperation that is needed from everyone including the providers, the hospitals, and the patients."

###