



For Immediate Release
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Quality Quest for Health of Illinois Adds New Team Member

(Peoria, IL) -- Quality Quest for Health of Illinois welcomes its newest team member:

Brenda Simms, RN, BSN, an Implementation Specialist with the Regional Extension Center (REC) satellite office under Quality Quest, will work with practice managers, clinic staff, billing representatives, and physicians to successfully plan, coordinate, and implement an electronic health record (EHR) system, as well as assist practices with workflow redesign and help them develop required quality reports.

Simms' background includes 20 years experience with EHR systems in both the in-patient and ambulatory setting. Her expertise in work flow processes and technical solutions is important to the work she will be doing with central Illinois medical practices.

About the Regional Extension Center

Quality Quest has been designated as a satellite office for the Illinois Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (IL-HITREC) for the central portion of Illinois. The primary purpose of the regional extension center is to assist primary care physicians associated with smaller clinical practices, federally qualified health centers, and rural and critical access hospitals with the selection and implementation of certified EHR systems.

Creation of the regional extension centers is part of a federal effort to accelerate the adoption of electronic health records nationwide. Funded by the economic stimulus bill passed last year (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), \$19 billion has been allocated to facilitate those efforts, including money to establish 70 regional extension centers nationwide. These centers are funded through a grant from the Office of the National Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services (Grant 90RC0023/01)

About Quality Quest for Health of Illinois

Quality Quest for Health of Illinois is a healthcare collaborative working together to transform healthcare in our state. We bring physicians, hospitals, health plans, employers, patients, and families together to focus on creating healthier communities with better patient outcomes and quality care. We collect data related to specific Quest projects and report performance information to the medical community and the public. The information helps providers compare their performance to peers and regional/national benchmarks and to improve patient care. Learn more at www.qualityquest.org.

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