



For Immediate Release  
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## **Kathleen Heskett Joins Quality Quest for Health of Illinois**

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

**Kathleen Heskett** is a Clinical Liaison who will be working with central Illinois medical practices to adopt, implement, and effectively use certified Electronic Health Records (EHR) technology. She will work with practice managers, clinic staff, billing representatives, and physicians to successfully plan, coordinate, and implement an EHR, as well as assist practices with workflow redesign and help them develop required quality reports.

Heskett brings several years experience as a technical trainer and systems analyst from the Air Force to her new position. She most recently supported more than 400 healthcare professionals at Scott Air Force Base with the Department of Defense electronic medical records system. She received a master's degree in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University and a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Western Illinois University.

### **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](http://www.qualityquest.org).

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