



Quest Physician Update

April 2009



Gail Amundson, MD, FACP
CEO, Quality Quest for Health of Illinois

Transforming Healthcare-Together.

Dear Colleagues,

Quest needs your help. Transforming healthcare means bringing the tools of the 21st century to bear on behalf of patients and families. Our paper-based system needs replacing with electronic systems that are fully connected. On February 4, 2009 Illinois took a big first step forward, authorizing \$3 million for health information exchange (HIE) planning.

HIE program goals include improving coordination, quality and outcomes, reducing disparities, errors and waste and getting rid of paper. Grants to jumpstart the planning process are in the works. A request for grant proposals was published on April 1, 2009, with grant proposals due May 15, 2009.

Grants will be made through the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services for 16 regions throughout the state. Quality Quest is headquartered in the Peoria region. Our members span the Bloomington, Champaign/Urbana and Decatur regions. Quest has convened a broad group of stakeholders and plans to submit an application for a planning grant.

Planning now puts Illinois in a better position to take advantage of anticipated federal stimulus funds for health information technology (HIT). Grants will be evaluated based on plans for meaningful use of HIE such as eRx, active exchange of health information, electronic reporting of quality measures and on broad stakeholder commitment.

We need your support. Your endorsement of Quest's grant application will help move HIE forward in our region.

Attached to this issue of *Quest Physician Update* is a "proto-type" Statement of Support that I ask you and/or your organization to review and consider signing. The statement may be adapted as necessary and a Word version is available to download on our website at www.qualityquest.org. The signed statement may be scanned and emailed to Angie Griffith at agriffith@qualityquest.org or faxed to 309-637-0643. We need your signed statement by May 8.

Thank you for your help and all you do to make healthcare better in our communities.

Respectfully,

Gail M. Amundson, MD, FACP

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at public health clinics.

We see tremendous value to the creation of a Health Information Exchange that would unite providers across our communities. We recognize this issue as an urgent public policy need and we are ready to help solve the problem here in Central Illinois.

By signature below, we confirm our commitment to:

- Stay in close communication with Quality Quest for Health and other planning partners throughout the HIE planning process;
- Help the planning committee identify and troubleshoot issues/barriers that may present challenges to the work ahead;
- Assist in the sharing of relevant information about HIE and its impact on quality healthcare to our internal organization, as well as to other stakeholders that may be identified as the planning process unfolds.

Signature

Printed Name

Organization

Title

Date