



# Quest Physician Update

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## Transforming Healthcare-Together.

Dear Colleagues,

Quality Quest for Health of Illinois has been in the news!

On August 18th, we announced that Quest received three one-year grants from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to coordinate health information exchange (HIE) planning for the Peoria, Bloomington, and Decatur areas. A fourth grant to the Champaign Public Health District will be used, in part, to pay Quest for managing their planning process. These grants represent an investment in our region of more than \$700,000.

The state is divided into 16 Medical Trading Areas (MTA), with each area being awarded one grant. Quest is one of two organizations receiving grants to facilitate the planning process for multiple regions.

Health information exchange is the process of securely sharing information from electronic medical records, insurance claims and other sources, such as prescribing information, between providers. Sharing important health information enhances coordination and helps make patient care better.

Planning ahead for HIE capabilities puts Illinois in a better position to take advantage of anticipated federal stimulus funds for health information technology.

Many people and organizations participated in the grant planning process. Others sent letters in support of Quest's grant application. Thank you. Your support made a real difference.

Join us for Quest's upcoming events:

September 22, 2009 for a breakfast discussion on *Healthcare Reform - Next Steps*, scheduled from 7-9:30 a.m. at the Par-A-Dice Hotel in East Peoria. This event is sponsored by Quest, the Employer's Association, and the Institute for Principled Leadership at Bradley University. More information to come.

September 30, 2009 for a CME conference, *An Ounce of Prevention – Is a Ton of Work*, held from 8-11:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. Speakers will be busting preventive care myths and reporting on local results. Learn more at our website - [www.qualityquest.org](http://www.qualityquest.org).

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

Respectfully,

Gail M. Amundson, MD, FACP