

Regional Extension Centers FAQ



WHAT IS A REGIONAL EXTENSION CENTER?

Section 3012 of the Public Health Service Act (PHSA), as amended by ARRA authorizes a Health Information Technology Extension Program (Extension Program). By statute, the Extension Program consists of a national Health Information Technology Research Center (HITRC), and Regional Extension Centers (Regional Centers).

Purpose of the Regional Extension Centers

The purpose of the Regional Extension Center program ("The Program") is to furnish assistance, defined as education, outreach, and technical assistance, to help providers in their geographic service areas select, successfully implement, and meaningfully use certified EHR technology to improve the quality and value of health care. Regional Centers will also help providers achieve, through appropriate available infrastructures, exchange of health information in compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and patient preferences. The support for health information exchange that is provided by Regional Centers will also be consistent with any applicable State Plan(s) for HIE.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE REC SERVICES?

Although any provider may receive services from the REC only Priority Primary Care providers can receive subsidized services.

To be eligible for receiving federally subsidized services under the REC program:

Practices must include "Priority Primary Care Providers" (PPCPs).

A "Priority Primary Care Provider" is defined as a licensed doctor of medicine (MD), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Physician Assistant (PA) who provides primary care clinical services for the Practice in the area of family medicine, adolescent, geriatric, obstetrics, gynecology, general internal, or pediatric medicine.

In addition, those providers must be practicing in the following settings:

- Individual or a small group practices (ten or fewer professionals with prescriptive privileges) primarily focused on primary care
- Public and Critical Access Hospitals
- Community Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics; and
- Other settings that predominantly serve uninsured,

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underinsured, and medically underserved populations.

A Practice can participate even if all providers in the Practice choose not to participate; however, NYeC strongly recommends that an entire Practice participate.

WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY THE REC?

Services are provided to aid Practices in implementing and achieving Stage 1 meaningful use of a certified EHR system in accordance with criteria established by the ONC.

Services provided may be different depending on whether a Practice already has an existing certified EHR and is using the system.

The full list of services for a practice with no EHR is as follows:

- Both web-based and locally hosted training and education sessions to help you better understand the ARRA incentives, ways to receive incentive payments, services to assist you, EHR basics, and much more
- Tailored, personal services to help you transform your practice
- Consultative services to help you choose the right EHR software and hardware for your needs
- Discounted pricing and terms for preferred vendors to enable ensure your EHR purchase and implementation is cost effective and meets your needs as a provider
- Clinical and administrative workflow analysis and redesign to make you a meaningful user of EHRs
- Highly skilled project management to oversee the

whole process

- Training for the providers and staff in your practice
- Assist with connectivity and Interoperability
 - Electronic lab interfaces
 - ePrescribing
 - connecting with other clinicians and hospitals
- A roadmap and support to get your practice and it's providers to qualify for Medicare, Medicaid and other incentives
- Privacy and Security Best Practices
- Provide documentation of HIPAA Security rules and it's applicability to your practice environment.
- Assure your practice has a plan for remaining compliant with HIPAA rules.
- Provide access to education at the state level around National and State privacy laws.

Practices that already have a certified EHR, will still benefit from many of the REC services

WHAT COSTS ARE NOT COVERED BY THE REC?

The REC program does not cover costs associated with purchasing EHR software, hardware, networking equipment and vendor provided training, as well as other system installation costs and services. The NYeC REC program, however, will provide certain services related to Vendor selection.



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