



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **eQHealth Solutions, One of the Nation's Top RECs**

**Baton Rouge, LA** – Ninety-seven percent of health care providers working with the Mississippi Regional Extension Center, known as the REC, have successfully adopted an electronic health record (EHR) to their practice. The Mississippi REC, operated by eQHealth Solutions, is ranked as the sixth\* most successful center in the country, according to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

When compared to the RECs in the 10 states in the southeast United States, the Mississippi REC currently ranks second for effective EHR adoption, trailing only Tennessee.

Centers such as the Mississippi REC are measured by the federal government at three milestones: 1) Enrolling providers to participate, 2) Assisting those enrolled providers in effectively implementing an EHR in their practices, and 3) Using the electronic tool meaningfully.

For the first milestone, the Mississippi REC was the second in the country to achieve its goal.

For this second milestone measure, the Office of the National Coordinator, or ONC, credits an REC for achieving success when a primary care provider achieves “Go-Live” status with its EHR. This means the provider has adopted an EHR to their practice and now has the ability for active quality reporting and electronic prescribing. Successful clinical quality reporting is a key to improving the quality of patient care.

Fadesola Adetosoye, Project Officer for the ONC, said her office commends eQHealth and the MS Regional Extension Center on their success meeting Milestone 2.

“Milestone 2 is a great example of how providers are demonstrating their ability to actively e-prescribe and generate quality reporting from their electronic health record,” said Adetosoye. “We congratulate the large number of providers in Mississippi who are working with the REC and are now eligible for CMS EHR incentive payments.”

She added that as providers continue to progress towards meaningful use, Milestone 2 is an excellent indicator of how EHRs can help improve care through better management of their patients.

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## **Mississippi REC a National Leader**

### **Add One**

The next challenge for health care providers in Mississippi is to use electronic health records in a way that complies with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' definition of meaningful use.

"We are very excited with our progress on the second hurdle of the program, but are now focusing most of our efforts on helping providers reach meaningful use," said Randy Bordelon, Program Manager for the Mississippi REC.

In order to achieve the meaningful use milestone (Milestone 3), providers must use their EHR to improve quality, safety, efficiency of care; engage patients and families in their health care, and ensure privacy and security. They must also:

- Use a certified EHR in a meaningful manner such as e-prescribing
- Electronically exchange health information to improve quality of health care.
- Submit clinical quality measures to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

For more information about achieving meaningful use, contact Randy Bordelon or Audrey Stacey at 225-926-6353 or email at [rbordelon@eqhs.org](mailto:rbordelon@eqhs.org).

\*RECs ahead of eQHealth Solutions, in ranking order, are Quality Insights of Delaware, REACH (MN & ND), Wisconsin Health Information Technology Extension Center, Regional Extension Center of NH, and Tennessee Regional Extension Center (tnREC).

### **About eQHealth Solutions**

Health care payers and providers rely on our expertise and medical management products to improve health care and create operational and financial efficiencies. Founded in 1986, we are headquartered in Baton Rouge, LA and have offices in Illinois, Mississippi and Florida. Through our partnerships with Medicare, state Medicaid agencies and commercial payers, eQHealth touches the lives of more than six million people annually. To learn more about eQHealth's services visit [www.eqhealthsolutions.org](http://www.eqhealthsolutions.org).